FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-238
Monday
12 December 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-238 *12 December 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 December Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends 'Uprising' Anniversary Message *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
'Arafat on 'Importance' of U.S. Role *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
'Arafat, Soviet Leadership Exchange Messages *[WAKH]* 5
PLO's Hurani Criticizes UK Stand on PLO *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 8 Dec]* 5
PLF's 'Abbas on Shultz Visa Decision *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 8 Dec]* 5
UAE Paper Alleges Direct Bush-PLO Contacts *[Radio Free Lebanon]* 7
Hawatimah Claims U.S. Message Relayed to PLO *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 7
Fatah-Provisional Command on 'Arafat's 'Treason' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 7
'Zionist Aggression' Termed 'Abysmal Failure' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Security Police Move Against 'Extremist Groups' 9
61 Arrested; Weapons Seized *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 8 Dec]* 9
'Extremists' Connected to Murder *[MENA]* 9
5 Al-Jihad 'Leaders' Arrested *[Voice of National Resistance]* 9
92 'Muslim Activists' Arrested *[IRNA]* 9
Ghali Comments on Israeli Raid on Lebanon *[MENA]* 9
Soviet Ambassador on Trade, Ties With Israel *[MENA]* 10
French Foreign Minister Roland Arrives in Cairo *[Cairo Radio]* 10

Libya

Involvement in Chadian Military Clash Denied *[Paris Radio]* 10
Joint Communique With Tunisia Issued 11 Dec *[Tripoli TV]* 10

Mauritania

Government Claims DC-7 Downed in Western Sahara *[Nouakchott Radio]* 11
Overthrown President Haidala To Be Released *[AFP]* 12
Former President, Others Freed *[Nouakchott Radio]* 12

Morocco

Government Offers To Search for Downed Plane *[Rabat Radio]* 12

Sudan

Coup Attempt Reportedly Discovered 7 Dec *[SANA]* 12
SPLA Condemns Libyan-Sponsored 'Invasion' *[Radio SPLA]* 12
SPLA Reports Capture of Libyan Pilot *[Radio SPLA]* 13

Tunisia

Further Reportage on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit 13
Speaks at Carthage Banquet *[Tunis Radio]* 13
Addresses Deputies 9 Dec *[Tunis Radio]* 14
Meets With President Ben Ali *[Tripoli Radio]* 26
Confers With Ben Ali in Safaqis *[Tunis Radio]* 26
Seen Off by President Ben Ali *[Tunis Radio]* 27

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Reacts to Downing of U.S. DC-7 27
'No Interest' in Harming U.S. *[Paris International]* 27
Downing Said 'Mistake' *[AFP]* 27
'Deepest Regret' Expressed *[AFP]* 27
Inquiry Team Formed *[APS]* 28

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Oman

'Arafat Envoy Delivers Message to Sultan Qabus *[Muscat Radio]* 29
Envoy Departs *[WAKH]* 29

Saudi Arabia

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 11 Dec *[SPA]* 29
Meets With King Fahd *[SPA]* 29
King Fahd Receives Afghan Mujahidin Delegation *[SPA]* 29
King Fahd Sends Condolences on USSR Quake *[SPA]* 29
King Fahd Confers With Omani Sultan 7 Dec *[Riyadh Radio]* 29
Lebanese Shi'ites Arrested With Drugs, Recordings *[Voice of Lebanon]* 30
Interior Minister, French Counterpart Hold Talks *[SPA]* 30

United Arab Emirates

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives With Saddam Husayn Message *[WAKH]* 30
Visits President *[INA]* 30
Departs for Muscat *[WAKH]* 30
Shaykh Zayid Receives 'Arafat's Political Adviser *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 30
PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives 12 Dec *[WAKH]* 31
Visits With Shaykh Zayid *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 31
Oman's Sultan Qabus Visits Military Base *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 31
Meets With President *[Muscat Radio]* 31
Leaves After 2-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 31
PDRY Official Delivers Message to President *[WAKH]* 31
Discusses Petroleum Cooperation *[WAKH]* 31
Petroleum Minister Cited on Quota, Reserves *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 32

IRAQ

'Responsible Source' on Iranian Opposition *[INA]* 33
'Source' Denies Summit Campaign in Baghdad *[INA]* 33
Saddam Husayn Sends Condolences to Gorbachev *[INA]* 33
Ramadan Returns From UAE, Oman; Makes Statement *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Oil Company Director Discusses Current Projects *[INA]* 33
Oil Minister Returns From London Seminar *[INA]* 34
Chadian Envoy Gives Message to RCC Vice Chairman *[INA]* 34
Trade Minister Returns From Argentina, Jordan *[INA]* 34

ISRAEL

Labor, Likud To Negotiate Broad-Based Government *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Likud 'To Avoid' Giving Peres Foreign Portfolio *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Likud, Labor Teams Begin 'Secret' Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Shomron Holds News Conference on IDF Operation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Further on Rescue Operation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Shamir To Begin Talks With Palestinians *[MA'ARIV 9 Dec]* 37
Shamir: No Talks With PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
USSR Reportedly Rejects Syrian Arms Request *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Dec]* 37
Abu Sharif: PLO Seeks State on 1967 Borders *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Dec]* 38
Terrorism Adviser on 'Arafat, UN Debate *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Protest Issued on Greek Move To Expel 'Terrorist' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Reportage on Rescue Aid to Armenian Quake Victims 39
Rescue Team Sent to Yerevan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
2 More Planes, 50 People Sent *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
2d Team Returns To 'Reorganize' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
USSR Envoy Comments on Aid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
2 'Terrorists' Killed in South Lebanon Clash *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
2 UNIFIL Soldiers Wounded in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Incidents Reported on Anniversary of 'Uprising' *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
2 Killed; 2 Soldiers Wounded *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 41
Mexico Reports Nir's Death Not Result of Sabotage *[MA'ARIV 9 Dec]* 41

JORDAN

King Husayn Views 'Uprising,' Palestinian State *[Amman TV]* 42
King Husayn, Delegation Leave for France 12 Dec *[Amman Radio]* 42
Prince Hasan on Implementing Resolutions 242, 338 *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Dec]* 42
AFP Interviews Prime Minister al-Rifa'i 11 Dec *[AL-DUSTUR 12 Dec]* 44
Government Sends Supplies to Earthquake Victims *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Dec]* 45
AL-RA'Y Praises King's Efforts To Unite Arabs *[11 Dec]* 46

LEBANON

PSP Issues Statement on 9 Dec Israeli Raids *[VOM]* 47
Israeli Prisoners Reportedly Killed in Evacuation *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 47
Junblatt Inspects Battle Zone, Urges Vigilance *[VOM]* 47
Jibril: 'Scores' of IDF Troops Killed or Wounded *[Voice of National Resistance]* 47
Kan'an Reports Syrian Forces 'Did Not Intervene' *[RFL]* 48
Syrian 'Source' on 'Limited' Role in Battle *[Voice of National Resistance]* 48
Fatah Provisional Command Mourns Fighter's Death *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 48
PFLP-GC 'Source' Details 'Violent' Battle *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 48
UN Envoy To Submit Complaint to Security Council *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Soviet Envoy Denounces 9 Dec Israeli Attacks *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Beirut Airport Resumes Operations *[VOL]* 49
Israeli Reconnaissance Aircraft, Patrols Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Mock Raids Over Sidon, Camps *[Beirut Radio]* 50
2 Gunmen Kill Belgian in West Beirut *[VOL]* 50
Birri, Junblatt Reportedly Seek To Oust Al-Huss *[RFL]* 50
Amal Gunmen Reportedly Kill Hizballah Official *[RFL]* 50
Amal 'Killers' Identified *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Amal Denies Assassination *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Hizballah Accuses Amal of Assassination *[RFL]* 50
Amal Leader Birri Attacks Hizballah *[RFL]* 51
Iran's Besharati Cited on Hizballah, Hostages *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 10 Dec]* 51
Museum Crossing Opened to Vehicles, Pedestrians *[Beirut Radio]* 51

SYRIA

Iranian Request To Free Detainees 'Rejected' *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 9 Dec]* 52
Press Views 'Zionist Aggression' Against Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 52
CSSR Defense Minister, Delegation Depart *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Al-Ahmar Receives Palestinian Front Officials *[SANA]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Praises Gorbachev Address to UN *[BAKHTAR]* 53
Najibullah, Politburo Approve Al-Ta'if Talks *[Kabul Radio]* 55
Najibullah Signs Condolence Book at Soviet Embassy *[BAKHTAR]* 55
'Iranian Spy' Captured by Government Troops *[AFP]* 55
2 Turkish Nationals Receive Presidential Pardon *[Kabul Radio]* 55
Government Aircraft Fire on Qandahar City *[Kabul Radio]* 56
Death Toll Rises to 44 *[AFP]* 56
Armed Forces Operations Against 'Extremists' Noted *[Kabul Radio]* 56
Rebel Successes Against Regime Reported *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
MiG-27 Downed in Qandahar *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Pakistan Blamed for Downing of Civilian Airliner *[Kabul Radio]* 57
Pakistani Violations Protested to UNGOMAP 57
Note No 143 *[BAKHTAR]* 57
Note No 144 *[Kabul Radio]* 57

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Resigns for 'Personal Reasons' *[Dhaka International]* 58
Diplomatic Freight Scandal Cited *[AFP]* 58
President Ershad Reshuffles Council of Ministers *[Dhaka Radio]* 58
Shanti Bahini Attack Kills 8, Injures 1 *[AFP]* 59

India

Defense Minister on Role in Sri Lanka, Maldives *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Ban on Chinese Journal PEKING REVIEW Lifted *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Economic Agreement With PDRY Signed *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Kashmir Chief Warns 'Pakistan-Trained Terrorists' *[Delhi Radio]* 60
'Terrorists' Kill Sikh Priest in Ambush 9 Dec *[Delhi Radio]* 60
4 People Killed in Punjab; 7 'Terrorists' Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 60
'Terrorists' Kill 5, Wound 4 in Gurdaspur Area *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists' in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 60

Iran

Majles Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Chief Justice Comments on Amnesty, Human Rights *[IRNA]* 64
Majles Deputies Ask Montazeri for Guidance *[RESALAT 5 Dec]* 65
RESALAT Notes Khamene'i, Tehran Clergy Talks 65
Part I on Postwar Era *[1 Dec]* 65
Part II on Exports, Imports *[4 Dec]* 65
Leaders Send Condolences to Soviet Leaders 66
Khamene'i Message to Gorbachev *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Musavi Message to Ryzhkov *[Tehran TV]* 66
Majles Speaker Condemns Israeli Attack on Lebanon *[IRNA]* 66
Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Raid on Lebanon *[IRNA]* 67
Cabinet Criticizes PLO Recognition of Israel *[IRNA]* 67
IRGC Pledges Aid to Palestinians, Lebanese *[IRNA]* 67

Polish Official Arrives, Met by Majles Speaker *[IRNA]* 67
Briefed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[IRNA]* 68
Meets With Musavi *[IRNA]* 68
Calls Foreign Forces 'Threat' *[IRNA]* 68
Concludes Visit, Departs 12 Dec *[IRNA]* 69
Mirzadeh Outlines Reconstruction Priorities *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Editorial on Khamene'i's View of Constitution *[ETTELA'AT 3 Dec]* 70
Commentary on New Drug Enforcement Law *[Tehran Radio]* 70

Pakistan

Prime Minister Visits General Staff Headquarters *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
State Finance Minister Says No Cuts in Defense *[AFP]* 71
Hundreds of Prisoners Released From Jails *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Four Candidates To Contest for Presidency *[Islamabad International]* 72
Customs Officials Make Large Heroin Seizure *[AFP]* 72
Iranian Envoy Discusses Relations With Premier *[Tehran Radio]* 72
Turkish Army Chief Arrives for 'Weeklong' Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 72

Sri Lanka

Tamil Made Official Language; Ministers Sworn In *[Delhi Radio]* 72
Release of Convicted Tamil Prisoners Announced *[AFP]* 73
'Subversives' Kill Provincial Councillor *[LANKAPUVATH]* 73
Bomb Explodes in Telegraph Office Complex 10 Dec *[Colombo International]* 73
Muslims Urged To Remain 'Neutral' in Election *[AFP]* 73

12 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1212131388 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Aftermath of Israeli Raid—In a news conference broadcast by the clandestine Al-Quds radio, PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril asserted that his organization sustained four dead and one wounded in the 9 December Israeli attack on PFLP-GC installations at Al-Na'imah.

Speaking after a tour of the area, Jibril said the operation had turned out badly for the Israelis as they failed to enter any of the PFLP-GC bases and left behind weapons and equipment.

The IDF force tried to send dogs carrying explosives into the PFLP-GC's network of tunnels and many of these animals were killed in the fighting, he stated.

Jibril failed to confirm earlier claims that some Israelis were captured, saying he has "no information" on this.

On the motives for the raid, Jibril contended it was an attempt to avenge the PFLP-GC operation inside northern Israel a year ago and to break the PFLP-GC's will to fight.

"It is as if they were saying to 'Arafat and his supporters that they will take care of the factions rejecting capitulationist settlements," Jibril asserted.

On Lebanese casualties in the fighting 9 December, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio stated that five civilians were killed and four members of the Progressive Socialist Party were wounded.

Syrian forces only participated in the battle on a 'limited' basis, Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an noted in a statement cited by Voice of National Resistance radio.

For Israel's part, the IDF chief of staff stated that the PFLP-GC suffered at least 20 casualties in the raid, which was carried out by the Golani Brigade and other crack units.

Speaking in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, he affirmed that Israeli forces did not exchange fire with the Syrians.

Clash in South—The IDF killed two "terrorists" in the central sector of the security zone the night of 11 December, IDF radio reported.

In a separate development, two Norwegian UNIFIL soldiers were seriously wounded by a mine explosion in the south, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Hizballah-Syrian Talks—Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received a Hizballah delegation in Damascus 11 December, Voice of National Resistance reported.

Husayn al-Musawi, who headed the Hizballah delegation, indicated that a rapprochement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement is under way.

However, the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed, a pro-Hizballah radio station, held Amal responsible for the attempted assassination of a Hizballah official over the weekend.

Israel

Territories—Two Arabs were killed by IDF fire in the Gaza Strip 10 December, IDF radio reported.

One was shot dead while attempting to attack a soldier in a detention center; the other was hit after hurling a firebomb.

Arab sources reported that 24 other people were wounded over the weekend, while the IDF confirmed half this number, according to THE JERUSALEM POST.

Government Negotiations—Likud and Labor negotiating teams resumed coalition negotiations the night of 11 December, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that Likud is offering Labor two senior ministerial positions—defense and either foreign affairs or the Finance Ministry.

Shamir on 'Arafat—In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir accused PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of emulating the propaganda methods of Dr Goebbels, adding that Israel cannot understand how Western governments "hailed 'Arafat's lies about terrorism when his gangs continue to this day to mount hundreds of terrorist threats."

Aid for Armenia—Israeli authorities are investigating the reason why two Israeli transport planes carrying aid to Armenia turned back before reaching their destination, Jerusalem radio reported.

The two Hercules aircraft set off early 12 December carrying equipment and a team of doctors, but returned to Israel the same morning.

Meanwhile, a Soviet official cited by the radio thanked Israeli citizens for their help in the earthquake disaster.

Palestinian Affairs

Saudi King Fahd received PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat 11 December, SPA reported.

Earlier, 'Arafat adviser Bassam Abu Sharif was received by a British Foreign Office minister, the London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

After the talks, the minister called the current PLO stand 'helpful" and said it coincides with the British view of the best way to achieve peace.

Egypt

Seventeen people were detained in Cairo for "staging gatherings, resisting police authorities, and attacking public utilities," MENA reported.

According to AL-JUMHIRIYAH, 61 members of religious "extremist" groups have been arrested in the wake of disturbances in which a policeman was killed.

The Voice of National Resistance radio in Beirut disclosed that 5 leaders of the Al-Jihad organization were among 300 people arrested.

U.S. Plane Downing

The Polisario Front issued a statement admitting responsibility for shooting down a U.S. AID plane over Western Sahara, but said that it was "a mistake," AFP reported.

The Sahrawi Government expressed regret for the incident, in which five Americans are presumed dead, and added it hopes relations with the United States will not be affected.

Libya-Tunisia

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali signed a communique at the end of Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia noting the "positive development" of relations between the two countries, Tripoli television reported.

Earlier, in a speech to the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies broadcast on Tunis radio, Al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed his commitment to Maghreb unity.

Afghanistan

A passenger aircraft flying from Khowst to Kabul was shot down by the Pakistani Air Force 10 December, killing 25 people, Kabul radio reported.

The radio also reported that parts of Qandahar were attacked by aircraft 8 December in "ambiguous" circumstances.

According to AFP, 44 people were killed in the air raids, which Afghan Government forces carried out "by mistake."

Meanwhile, Kabul radio reported that a car bomb exploded in the capital, injuring a number of people.

Pakistan

More than 1600 prisoners have been released from jails in Punjab and Sind, Islamabad radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends 'Uprising' Anniversary Message

JN1012213288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1931 GMT 10 Dec 88

["Text" of message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, to Palestinians in the occupied territory on the 1st anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian uprising—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Surely has Allah in truth fulfilled for His messenger the vision. You will certainly enter the Sacred Mosque, if Allah will, in security. [Koranic verses]

O masses of the blessed popular uprising, O children of the sacred stones and the Molotov [cocktails], O strugglers in the popular committees and mass frameworks, O sons of our great Palestinian people in the homeland and in the diaspora: On your great day, which is one of the greatest days in the history of our people and nation and in the history of the march of struggle to achieve freedom in the whole world; on the day of the 1st anniversary of the beginning of our blessed uprising, which is continuing and escalating with all confidence, glory, pride, and making one achievement after the other, crowned with laurels of glory and victory, we extend greetings and love to you—O you my beloved ones and brothers—on this great day of our blessed uprising.

In this glorious day in our revolutionary highbred history, we remember with homage and pride our martyrs, foremost of whom is my brother the symbol leader, martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] while they are in their paradise with their God. We say to them from the bottom of the heart and conscience: O our beloved deceased ones, rest assured that the heroes, whom you left behind, have rallied around the banner, defending it with their souls and lives on the path of the revolution so that it will be hoisted, God willing, on the soil of Palestine and beloved Jerusalem.

O our glorious masses, O masses of the popular revolution, O masses of the Arab nation, throughout the previous year you were making a unique Palestinian era, planting a new Arab hope, and building a genuine international revolutionary experience by this epic and unity between the steadfast rifle in our camps in southern Lebanon with this stone, stained with the (?glory) of the uprising. One year ago a deep silence prevailed in our Arab region. The hostile forces were speculating that the bad Arab time had become a permanent state of affairs. They thought the years of siege and aggression and the series of chases and massacres had broken our Palestinian will. There were many who refused to believe the (?glad tidings) of the victory and vision which believed in the inevitability of freedom from the chains of siege.

The struggle of our people in the occupied homeland, in unity with the struggle of our people in the diaspora, constitute the melting pot on the path of making this new Arab era—the era of the uprising and victory on our Arab nation's eastern flank. Much has been achieved in the 19th session of our PNC—the session of the uprising and the session of martyr Abu Jihad—in terms of entrenching national unity and making these historic fateful resolutions, in addition to the increase in the activity of the resistance and the escalation in the uprising's intensity. At the same time, the hostile forces were active to cancel the Palestinian figure, laying plans and programs to liquidate our people's cause. The chains of siege and conspiracy were increasing and the psychological war intensifing.

But our masses' uprising stood fast in the blazing furnace and against all these crises and troubles to show the whole world that our people have taken this revolutionary resolution, from which there will be no retreat and there is no other option, that is, to continue their sacrifice, their popular revolution, and their blessed uprising.

O sons of our people, on that day, 1 year ago, you were writing a new page in the annals of history with letters of light and fire. You were holding the banners of jihad. You were, O masses of our great people—men, women, and children— declaring the challenge and the confrontation with these faithful and aware hearts and with this deep faith in the capability to challenge. The challenge came thunderous as much as the confrontation was difficult, hard as much as the battle was savage, confident as much as our people's faith in their cause and revolution, glorious as much as the the glory and determination of our masses.

Yes, the resolution was that the uprising will continue, God willing, until the termination of occupation. This uprising is based on the firm national unity which adheres to the unified leadership, popular committees, and strike forces. It is organized through the experienced frameworks which unite the people, all people—women, children, and men, old and young, workers, students, and professionals, academics, merchants, craftmen, and property owners and rich and poor. In its valiant history, this uprising paints pictures of the future for our people and nation. It embraces glory and meets with the blazing furnace of all the Palestinian revolutions—the longest revolution in contemporary time. And it was due from us to aid those who believed. [Koranic verse]

Since that day, O heroes of the stones and the Molotov, the Palestinian age has turned a new leaf. Since that day, O sons of the Palestinian revolution, we have been closer than ever to achieving the goal. We are knocking on the gate of freedom, which is stained with our righteous martyrs' blood, and we are also knocking on the doors of history with the torture of the wounded and the steadfastness and faith of the captives, our heroes, in the enemy's prisons. O my brothers and beloved ones, O

masses of our people in our blessed uprising, you were most prominent on the scene. O you, the steadfast in the camps inside and outside the homeland, were behind every decision.

O you the new generals, the generals of the sacred stones and the generals of the RPG, were the resounding and strong voice in the corridors of the PNC, where our national unity has been restored through responsible, democractic practices. You were great contributors. When independence and the establishment of the State of Palestine on Palestine's land were declared, it was your voice that declared them. You are the creators and fathers of this independence. As a result of your sacrifices, firm steadfastness, resistance, and brave and blessed uprising, the impossible has become possible and the revolution is advancing with firm and strong steps on the path of liberation.

Just as the uprising is the revolutionary accumulation of the Palestinian revolutionary march, the declaration of independence and the establishment of the State of Palestine are the solid results of our masses' uprising, which has crowned that huge assest of our people's struggle in all places of the homeland, where there is a brave daily confrontation of the racist and fascist occupation army and in Lebanon, where there is a heroic confrontation of the ceaseless aggressions and massacres.

On this solid base, our revolution has moved to a position of strategic offense on all fronts of the heated conflict and the political confrontation in the local and international arenas and inside and outside the homeland. Throughout the previous year, the uprising's incidents and clear picture affirmed that the people who have nothing except their stones, chants, and readiness to sacrifice resisted with bare chests an army with all types of advanced and lethal weapons. This picture has penetrated the world's conscience and every house in the world to project our people's just and clear-cut cause as that of a genuine nation struggling for the sake of its natural right to self-determination, liberation, and independence.

One hundred and fifty-four countries raised their voice to make the world hear the voice of Palestine and supported the uprising and its slogans, our people's goals, and our PNC's resolutions being chanted by our masses in Palestine's plains, valleys, plateaus, and villages and in our camps inside and outside Palestine. I declare a new stage of our epic struggle, which strengthens its revolutionary acheivements, opens new horizons in the world, and enriches our political, diplomatic, and information moves. It also affirms its ability to attract more support for its just cause and our people and masses. At the same time, it causes more isolation to Israel and its aggression and unveils its crimes and racism against our children, women, and people.

O my kinfolk, O masses of our people in the homeland and the diaspora, today our revolution enters a new stage of struggle, a stage of building the State of Palestine in the homeland, as Zionism and its allies try to delete the name of Palestine from history and geographical and poltical maps. It is a stage we start armed with this deep faith, the genuine revolutionary heritage, the popular steadfastness of our blessed uprising, and this large-scale international support. We enter this stage vigorously, relying on our people's heritage of struggle, on our struggle, on our sacrifices, on our suffering, and on our ability to confront ordeals and disasters. Today, this stage expresses itself through the people's revolutionary authority, which is taking root in the homeland's soil in the face of the occupation authority.

This stage is taking root in this overall, enlightened, and widespread organization of these revolutionary cadres in a most splendid process of a creative revolutionary [words indistinct] the unified leadership and with which [words indistinct] the revolution. Therefore, this new stage presents basic and important tasks to develop what was accomplished by the sacrifices of martyrs, wounded, detainees, and our people's steadfastness. These tasks are headed by the continuous entrenchment of that splendid picture presented by our people's masses in terms of the national unity which encompassed all forces, sectors, and factions in one body raising the PLO's banner along the road of repatriation and victory.

My brothers and beloved ones, we must realize and expect that our enemies, while seeing our people achieve a new accomplishment every day, while seeing the noose of international isolation tightened around them, and while feeling the bankruptcy of their occupation scheme, will try to escalate the hot confrontation on all levels. We do not forget, O my beloved ones, that the most difficult and fiercest battles always come in the last quarter of the hour. Have we not lost my brother martyr, the leader and the symbol during it? Have the agent traitors not stormed Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah during it? The enemy authorities are escalating their repression and iron fist in our land and increasing their raids and aggression against our camps.

They will discover that all types of oppression, repression, savagery, and crimes they devise will not succeed in influencing the youngest boy or girl among the children of my country. Our people have announced that they are marching toward the target, toward victory until the departure of occupation. We want peace, a Palestinian peace and not an Israeli or (?American) peace. We want that peace which preserves our national and political rights, headed by our right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state whose capital is Jerusalem. Let the flag of our revolution, the flag of our state flutter over Palestine on the Jerusalem minarets, churches, walls, and domes of holy Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine—a free homeland for a free people. Allah has made this promise. Allah breaks not His promise, but most men know not. [Koranic verse]

O people of the glorious uprising, great sons of the Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation, with your sacrifices [passage inditinct] the revolutionary experience and struggling popular frameworks of our women, the brave Palestinian woman [words indistinct] our strike forces and our popular army [word indistinct] and vigor of our revolution. A greeting of pride and appreciation to the prisoners and detainees in the Israeli prisons [words indistinct]. A greeting, all greetings to [words indistint] our unified national leadership, its [words indistinct] committees, organs, and popular institutions while doing the impossible, shaping tomorrow, and [word indistinct] our masses in the trench of confrontation, interceptioon, and resistance, and building the base of the state, the State of Palestine.

All greetings to our heroes who were wounded in the battles of confrontation of the occupiers. Through their struggle they proved that blood overcomes the sword. Greetings and admiration to the steadfast people in the camps of southern Lebanon [words indistinct] the stone together with their brothers in the Lebanese national movement in the face of the Israeli forces [words indistinct]. O people of the uprising, O sons of our great people, let our slogan in the coming stage be an uprising until the state, steadfastness until victory. May the occasion come while you are well and triumphant. It is from the firebrand of the uprising that the light of dawn breaks.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. They prayed: Our Lord! Pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm: Help us against those who reject faith. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Your brother Abu 'Ammar

'Arafat on 'Importance' of U.S. Role

JN0912183588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called on the Palestinians to intensify and continue the popular uprising. He said the issue depends on Israel. If it wants peace, he said, we would welcome that decision. If it decides on war, however, then we are prepared for that as well, he said.

In an interview with Abu Dhabi television, 'Arafat clarified that the PLO is ready to hold diplomatic contacts alongside the uprising. On this issue, he discussed the importance of the role played by the United States, who, through its agreement on holding an international peace conference on the Middle East, would make holding the conference very posssible.

The PLO chairman pointed out in return that what is called the Zionist lobby does not affect U.S. policy at all, because the Israelis do everything they are told by the Americans. Therefore, according to 'Arafat, we have to contact the Americans and attempt to convince them to change their policy.

'Arafat, Soviet Leadership Exchange Messages

JN1012075888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0523 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Tunis, 9 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today received a message from the Soviet leadership on the situation in the Middle East. Vladimir Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador in Tunisia, conveyed the message to 'Arafat during a meeting in Tunisia today. The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, said the PLO chairman asked the Soviet diplomat to convey a message to the Soviet leadership on the danger resulting from the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the ongoing regional developments, and the importance of continuing efforts to convene an international peace conference. During the meeting, 'Arafat also expressed the PLO's condolences on the victims of the earthquake that afflicted the Armenian SSR on Wednesday.

PLO's Hurani Criticizes UK Stand on PLO

JN1012163288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Dec 88 p 19

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani still supports the U.S. stand hostile to the Palestinian people.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Hurani said the Thatcher government's terms are set by one who does not want to listen to the voice of peace and who tries to justify his own stands by making unrealistic pretexts at a time when the whole world has praised both the PNC resolutions and the PLO's stand, which is entirely directed toward peace. Hurani explained that the British Government's stand can no longer convince anyone. Even members of the British House of Commons are not convinced of this stand, he added.

The PLO Executive Committee member recalled the British Government's stand in the EEC meetings. This stand prevented the issuance of a clearer statement on the Palestine question despite the fact that Thatcher was among those who welcomed the PNC resolutions and urged the United States to show an understanding of them.

PLF's 'Abbas on Shultz Visa Decision

JN1012124888 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 8 Dec 88 p 19

[By 'Ali Ballut]

[Text] Asked about the accusations on which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz based his decision denying PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa to the "UN territory" in New York to address the UN General Assembly, Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] secretary general, said:

More than a year ago, the U.S. Justice Department made an official decision calling off legal proceedings against me in connection with the so- called kidnapping of the

Italian ship "Achille Lauro." The decision was based on "lack of sufficient evidence." George Shultz is today opening this file, which was closed by the U.S. courts, to call off U.S. and world attention from the historic resolutions adopted by the PNC during its latest session in Algiers.

Question: The logic of Shultz and other members of the outgoing U.S. Administration was based in its negative part on your membership in the PLO Executive Committee.

Answer: My Executive Committee membership was a result of a pure democratic practice by the representatives of the Palestinian people. The PNC, which constitutes a Palestinian parliament, elected me. It is the only authority that can sack me or prevent my election for another term. If Mr Shultz or others are annoyed by this membership and want me out of it, I am not in the least concerned. If, on the other hand, recognition of the Palestinian peoples' rights is dependent on my leaving the Executive Committee, I am ready to exercise the right—which no one can dispute within the framework of Palestinian democracy—of resigning from the Executive Committee immediately.

Question: Shultz is said to have informed his Western allies, especially Britain, that the "Achille Lauro" operation was carried out with 'Arafat's knowledge and that Shultz based his famous decision not to grant 'Arafat a visa to address the United Nations in New York on this.

Answer: The U.S. logic is odd. What is more odd, however, is the logic of Shultz himself. While the U.S. Justice Department closes this case due to lack of sufficient evidence, Shultz decides otherwise. Had this flagrant contradiction between a judicial body and an executive body happened under a dictatorship, we would have understood it. However, as it happened in a state that considers itself the mother of democracies and the protector of world liberties, we think of it as strange, and it makes us raise additional question marks about the democracy of the U.S. regime.

There is another point. Why did Shultz not "donate" the information he possessed to his colleague the attorney general before the latter decided to close the case due to lack of sufficient evidence? And, if Shultz obtained his "valuable information" after the Justice Department's decision, why does this department not provide him the file once again? How can Shultz make a political ruling on a case on which courts refused to make a ruling? Does not this constitute a violation of the principle of seperation of power between the judiciary and executive authorities?

Question: In your opinion, what is the real motive for the U.S. secretary of state's behavior?

Answer: Our analysis is that Shultz has spontaneously expressed his well-known hostility to our Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He was not pleased to see the PNC come out with historic resolutions which were accorded this widespread attention and appreciation of the governments and peoples that want a peace based on justice. We do not exclude the U.S. people in this field. Therefore, he began swimming against the current in a desperate attempt to divert this current in the direction that serves the interests of world Zionism and not the interests of the U.S. people. Our analysis of Shultz' thoughts does not make us rule out the possibility that he wishes to provoke us and make us change the policy that was adopted by majority at the recent PNC session.

Question: What do you mean?

Answer: Shultz had hoped, and still hopes, that our reaction will come to serve his recent decision.

Question: Please clarify.

Answer: If Shultz and others in the U.S. Administration still wager on our revolutionary immaturity, they do not understand the new realities. We are committed to our resolutions, whether those adopted in Cairo—the Cairo declaration on suspending terrorist operations outside the occupied territories—the resolutions that were recently adopted in Algiers, or the statements that were made in more than one Arab and foreign capital. We regret to tell Shultz and others in the U.S. Administration that we are determined to disappoint him on all levels.

Question: Some are convinced that Shultz' visa decision is an expression of the policy the new U.S. Administration will follow.

Answer: The information we have makes us raise a question mark on this interpretation. According to the information we have, Shulz wanted to settle old accounts with the new U.S. Administration. Some say that Shultz had expressed the wish to President-elect George Bush to keep him in the State Department until the end of 1989, the date when nuclear disarmament talks with the USSR are expected to end. This is because Shultz wants to enter history with his boss Reagan as the makers of world peace. When he conveyed this wish to George Bush, the latter hastened to appoint a new secretary of state to escape the pressure President Ronald Reagan had started to bring to bear on him in this respect.

Also, Shultz has sensed that the new U.S. Administration's policy is inclined to cautiously and patiently bypass the conditions set by Henry Kissinger, conditions which Kissinger had set as the basis for the initiation of a dialogue with the PLO. Shultz wanted to add to the previous conditions another one that can be interpreted as follows: If there is to be a dialogue with the PLO, a dialogue with its leader 'Arafat is taboo. We believe that this new condition set by Shultz is a transparent and

childish manipulation that will serve the Zionist objective of making the United States distance itself from the tackling of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights from the premise of the principles of human rights.

In spite of this, we are waiting for the decision the new U.S. Administration will adopt. While waiting, we are inclined to be optimists out of concern over peace in the Middle East, and perhaps over peace worldwide.

UAE Paper Alleges Direct Bush-PLO Contacts

NC1012163688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD has quoted a high-level British diplomatic source as saying that when U.S. President-elect George Bush was CIA chief, he held direct contacts in 1975-6 with PLO leaders on security cooperation between Washington and the PLO. The paper adds that several meetings were held in New York, Washington, London, and Beirut between U.S. officials led by Bush and several PLO leaders. Quoting the same source, AL-ITTIHAD says that documents regarding these contacts and meetings and the talks conducted are held by the British foreign intelligence service.

The British source has revealed the existence of written U.S. commitments to U.S. public recognition of the PLO from 1981-82, but former U.S. Secrtary of State Henry Kissinger managed to abrogate these commitments after he promised Israel he would do so. According to the paper, the British diplomat said that despite Kissinger's cancellation of these commitments and his countermove against the PLO, direct contacts and meetings and the exchange of visits between the PLO and the official U.S. authorities went on until 1984.

Hawatimah Claims U.S. Message Relayed to PLO

JN1012142988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] In a speech last night, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah disclosed that a European state, which he declined to name, had conveyed an official message from the U.S. State Department to the PLO's leadership, requesting it to recognize the State of Israel and its right to existence, accept Resolutions 242 and 338 alone as a basis for the convocation of an international conference, and end acts of violence, that is, the uprising.

In return, the U.S. Administration pledged to hold dialogue with the PLO for the purpose of holding an international conference on the basis of the two above-mentioned resolutions.

Hawatimah reiterated his rejection of all the U.S. maneuvers and conditions. He warned the PLO's leadership against misinterpreting or splitting up the PNC resolutions, stressing that the DFLP will confront such attempts and others like the Stockholm document and the latest statements by Bassam Abu Sharif in London.

Fatah-Provisional Command on 'Arafat's 'Treason'

JN0912204988 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1752 GMT 9 Dec

[Text] In response to 'Arafat's treacherous statements in Stockholm in which he declared his recognition of the Zionist enemy, Fatah-Provisional Command's spokesman has stated the following:

'Arafat's treacherous statements do not represent our Palestinian Arab people. They reflect the depth to which the renegade clique in the PLO has stooped. These statements confirm once again that 'Arafat has committed high treason against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and must be treated on that basis.

The Fatah-Provisional Command spokesman added: The Palestinian strugglers who have struggled for a long time to protect the revolution, preserve its national line, and guard our people against more of the setbacks and catastrophes which were brought by the renegade leadership believe that one of the methods to stop the capitulationist policy is by rooting out anyone who is tempted to speak on the Palestinians' behalf and recognize their enemy.

Our people inside the occupied homeland whose valiant uprising is entering its 2d year realize that the attempts by 'Arafat and his trend will only serve the enemy and aim principally to abort the uprising. They are also an exposed attempt to abort the whole of our people's struggle. 'Arafat's statements have confirmed the futile stands of the Palestinian forces which participated in the Algiers conference and which tried to justify their participation by registering certain reservations. In reality, their participation constitutes a dangerous bias toward the capitulationist and liquidationist trend. Therefore, they are asked today to reconsider their stands. Otherwise, the judgment against them will be no different from that against 'Arafat and his line.

The Fatah-Provisional Command spokesman concluded: We call on all Palestinian nationalist forces to swiftly declare their leadership of the PLO, which was abandoned by 'Arafat and his capitulationist line.

'Zionist Aggression' Termed 'Abysmal Failure'

JN0912220488 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: It is to be expected for the general Zionist crisis to express itself on such an occasion as the 1st anniversary of the heroic Palestinian uprising.

Today's Israeli operation in Lebanon where the Palestinians maintain a temporary presence is to be seen in this context. Since the small hours of today, the Zionist enemy embarked on a highly adventurous folly against the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces deployed along a coastal strip from south Beirut to the approaches of Sidon.

This Zionist folly was not altogether unexpected. The major popular uprising has entered its 2d year determined to carry on and escalate until total victory. The Zionist enemy, having failed to check it, has had to do something that might bring it back some of the standing that was taken from it by the stones of the uprising. But the calculations of the [words indistinct] does not tally with the calculations of the [word indistinct].

The Zionist aggression against the temporary Palestinian presence on the Lebanese coast was an abysmal failure to be added to the wretched performance of the oppressive Zionist power against the triumphant will of the Palestinian uprising. The joint Palestinian-nationalist Lebanese forces heroically stood up to a series of Zionist landing attempts at the coast areas in Khaldah, Al-Na'imah, Al-Damur, Sa'diyat, 'Aramun, (Du'rista), and others and engaged the failed Zionist soldiers and pinned them down, killing, wounding, or imprisoning quite a few of the fascists.

Such has been the upshot of this aggression for the Zionist enemy. It was the first such operation in terms of numbers and power since the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. It was a new defeat for the Zionist enemy. How will the demoralized Zionist entity bear its results and implications, living under the siege of the valiant Palestinian uprising? Indeed, it is a crisis of the first order for the oppressive Zionist force—the unjust force that now witnesses its total defeat on all fronts and at all levels. The muscleflexing, follies, and aggressive adventures like the latest Lebanese adventure will be to no avail.

This has been a new failure for the oppressive Zionist forces—a failure that eloquently speaks for the advent of the Palestinian era that has been in evidence on the land of the struggle and further afield.

The Palestinian stone has settled the question when it bloodied the face of the Zionist general and rubbed his nose in the dirt of failure and total defeat. The outcome of the Zionist operation on the Lebanese coast is yet another picture of the retreating oppressive Zionist force before the unique will of the Palestinian truth. May the glory be to [words indistinct] as they stand up to and triumph over the Zionist aggression and stand ready for any potential folly. It is revolution, not uprising, until the total defeat of occupation and until the complete embodiment of the independent, free, Palestinian state.

Egypt

Security Police Move Against 'Extremist Groups'

61 Arrested; Weapons Seized

JN1012165688 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 88 p 1

[By Hasan al-Shayib]

[Text] Security services at the Interior Ministry have arrested 61 wanted members of religious extremist groups in the 'Ayn Shams area for participating in disturbances and demonstrations. They also seized a large number of knives, daggers, chains, and some leaflets from various members of these groups.

At dawn yesterday a search was launched by the State Security Intelligence, the Central Security, and the Criminal Investigation Department to clear the 'Ayn Shams area of extremist elements known for instigating disturbances and demonstrations and to seize the weapons, explosives, and leaflets they use in their riots. The Higher State Security Prosecution was notified to start an investigation.

'Extremists' Connected to Murder

NC0912150188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—The security authorities continued their search campaign in the 'Ayn Shams area today to reestablish security and to find the culprit who murdered a police officer yesterday, Thursday. Several checkpoints have been erected at the approaches to Cairo and Al-Jizah to expedite the apprehension of the criminal.

The security organs arrested a number of religious extremists this afternoon on suspicion of being connected with the murder. According to the investigations, the murderer of the police officer is a member of one of the religious extremist organizations in 'Ayn Shams.

It should be recalled that an unidentified person yesterday stabbed Lieutenant Colonel 'Isam al-Din Shams, deputy chief of the eastern Cairo investigation team, while he was walking on a street in 'Ayn Shams. The culprit fled and the officer immediately died of his wounds .

5 Al-Jihad 'Leaders' Arrested

NC1212075288 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Egyptian newspapers reported yesterday that five leaders of the Al-Jihad Organization, some members of which assassinated late President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, were arrested in eastern Cairo yesterday. AL-JUMHURIYAH said that these arrests are part of the police search operation to locate an Al-Jihad Organization member who stabbed a police officer to death on Thursday. Police sources have confirmed that 300 persons were detained following this murder.

Meanwhile, MENA has reported that arrests have been made among Islamic groups. AL-AKHBAR newspaper has disclosed that a large quantity of explosives was discovered during the search operations by the police.

92 'Muslim Activists' Arrested

LD1212081688 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Athens, Dec. 12, IRNA—Severe clashes broke out between Islamists and security forces in the suburbs of 'Ayn Shams, Al-Matariyah and Al-Alf Maskin [placename as received] in Cairo Friday night resulting in injuries of several people and arrest of hundreds of Muslim revolutionaries, Egypt's only opposition daily AL-WAFD Sunday reported. After security police arrested hundreds of Muslim activists last Wednesday to prevent the staging of a pro- intifadah demonstration to mark the first anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, daily clashes are taking place between Islamists and security police in Cairo.

Egypt is the only Arab state to have signed a U.S.-brokered peace treaty with the Zionist state, and the Mubarak regime has imposed a ban on all anti-Israel demonstrations in the country.

AL-WAFD said the Islamists set fire to two police cars, while security forces launched a search-action looking for Islamists in different areas of the Egyptian capital. The state media and government-controlled dailies have not reported on the riots.

Meanwhile, the district prosecutor has ordered that 92 Muslim activists be remanded in custody for 15 days to carry out investigations. They have been accused of plotting sedition and violence and illegal possession of arms. The 92 were arrested during the last two days.

Ghali Comments on Israeli Raid on Lebanon

NC1012131388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1257 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the Israeli act of aggression against Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese positions south of Beirut means that Israel is striking at the hope for peace, opening the way for more violence and extremism, and obstructing the efforts being made to boost the peace process. In a statement to MENA, Ghali said that Israel must withdraw its troops to the international borders with Lebanon and respnd to the call for peace and coexistence in the interest of all the region's peoples.

Soviet Ambassador on Trade, Ties With Israel

NC1112152588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Zhuravlev has said that Egypt and the Soviet Union will sign a cooperation protocol for 1989 before the end of this year. During a news conference he held here today, the Soviet ambassador said the volume of trade between the two countries in 1988 reached $800 million and expressed the hope that next year it will reach $1 billion.

Zhuravlev said that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is soon to visit the Middle East, including Egypt, but the date of the visit has not yet been set.

On the other hand, the Soviet ambassador affirmed the Soviet Union's principled stand on the Palestinian issue and its solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate rights, particularly their right to set up their independent state. He noted in this regard that the recent PNC resolutions have created a more suitable atmosphere for activating the peace process in the Middle East.

He also affirmed that there are no new developments in Soviet-Israeli relations, adding that the restoration of relations between the two countries will only take place after the elimination of the causes for their severance.

The Soviet ambassador said that his country could consider the question of restoring relations with Israel" with the start of the international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Zhuravlev added that the vote which recently took place at the United Nations to move the debate on the Middle East issue to Geneva to enable Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to deliver his speech confirms beyond doubt that the entire world supports a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem through an international conference.

He noted in this respect the profound regret which Soviet President Gorbachev had expressed because of the U.S. refusal to grant an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat.

Regarding the situation in Afghanistan, the Soviet ambassador admitted that the recent talks between delegations of the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Union in Al-Ta'if have not produced positive results. The agreement between the two sides to meet again in Islamabad in Pakistan is regarded as a positive step, he said.

He emphasized the importance for all the warring parties in Afghanistan to reach a solution and to implement a cease-fire effective 1 January in accordance with the Soviet proposal in this regard, which was approved by the Soviet Union, the United States, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at the UN-sponsored meetings in Geneva.

French Foreign Minister Roland Arrives in Cairo

NC1212064288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Cairo this morning on a 2-day visit, during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. He will also hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Middle East developments and France's and the EEC's role in promoting the peace process. Means of strengthening Egyptian-French cooperation will also be discussed.

Libya

Involvement in Chadian Military Clash Denied

LD1012095888 Paris Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Libya has denied, through its ambassador to Paris, involvement in the military clash that is reported to have taken place last Thursday in the eastern part of Chad. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique With Tunisia Issued 11 Dec

LD1112222888 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Dec 88

["Text" of joint communique issued in Tripoli and Tunis on 11 December on the visit to Tunisia by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi]

[Text] At the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia, Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, paid an official visit to the Republic of Tunisia 28 Rabi' al-Thani to 1 Jumad al-Awwal 1398 A.H. corresponding to 8-11 December 1988.

The great guest and the delegation accompanying him were accorded a warm official and popular welcome. This visit was a part of the historic, deep-rooted ties and the fraternal and close relations between the two countries. It consolidates the tradition of direct contact between the leaders of the two countries, and strengthens cooperation and integration between them in all spheres.

During his stay in the Republic of Tunisia, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi made a speech in the Chamber of Deputies. He also visited the cities of Kairouan, Sousse, and Sfax where he saw examples of the all-round growth there. He expressed his emotion at the appreciation for the fraternal Libyan people and its leadership everywhere and his admiration for the balanced and extensive growth.

Comprehensive bilateral talks were held between His Excellency President Zine El Abidine and his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, as well as talks between members of the two delegations, covering bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them and the situation in the Arab Maghreb and the Arab homeland and international issues of common interest.

The two leaders noted the positive and continuous development of relations between the two countries and their joint cooperation in all fields. They stressed the need to continue work for further promoting cooperation and laying down formulas for integration to achieve the aspiration of the one Arab people in the two countries: a border-free Arab Maghreb.

The two leaders examined the work of the joint higher committee during its periodic meeting in Tunis 6-7 December 1988. They noted with satisfaction the regularity of its work and what it has achieved in realizing the objectives of the one people in the two countries.

The two leaders reaffirm their determination to continue efforts to realize the two countries' peoples' aspiration for unity. The two sides agreed to create a higher follow-up committee which will be assisted by an executive committee; both committees will work under the supervision of the two countries' leaders to implement the agreed decisions on cooperation, integration, and unity.

Reviewing the situation in the Arab Maghreb, the two leaders noted the constructive atmosphere prevailing over relations between the countries of the region, as well as the Maghreb committee's results. They expressed hope that the process will make further steps aimed at speeding up the construction of unity in the Arab Maghreb as a first step toward Arab unity.

While reviewing the situation in the Arab and African regions, the two sides stressed the following:

1. To bless the birth of the independent Palestinian state and to continue providing aid and assistance to the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, in their struggle against the Zionist enemy and to extend greetings and appreciation to the courageous intifadah in occupied Arab Palestine.

The two sides urge international opinion to stand by the side of justice and righteousness and to support the strugglers to end the Zionist occupation of all Palestinian and Arab territory; they denouce the U.S. Administration's decision to deny a visa entry for the PLO chairman to address the United Nations General Assembly and consider the action an infringement of the headquarters agreement which might threaten the future of the United Nations.

2. Welcoming the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and the peace moves which have started to emerge, heralding the end of the war and the return of the situation in the Arabian Gulf to normalcy.

3. Desire for the unity of Lebanon in terms of territory, people, and institutions to peacefully overcome the serious and critical current situation. The two sides support any honest Arab effort exerted in this respect.

4. Firm support for the struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa against colonialism and ugly racial discrimination. The two leaders stressed the significance of Arab-African cooperation in confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation and the people of the African Continent. They consider this to be essential for realizing the peoples' ambitions on this continent. They also denounced the disposal of dangerous waste materials in Africa and the Arab world. The Tunisian side welcomes the normalization of relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Chad.

5. To work toward making the Mediterranean region a zone of security, peace, and cooperation.

At the end of his visit, brother Col al-Qadhdhafi expressed his high appreciation and admiration for the warm brotherly welcome and hospitality which he and the accompanying delegation were accorded and which demonstrated the deep fraternal feelings and the strength of the bonds between the one Arab people in the two sister countries.

Mauritania

Government Claims DC-7 Downed in Western Sahara

LD0912224688 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The Ministry of Information this evening refuted through its secretary-general, Mr Hamoud Ould Bouh, reports that a DC-7 aircraft has crashed and another of the same make has been damaged on Mauritanian soil.

[Unidentified speaker] The international press reported yesterday evening that a U.S. DC-7 had crashed and that another aircraft of the same make had been hit. Suspicious press sources are attempting to convince international public opinion that the incident took place near Bir Moghrein. The truth is that the aircraft was shot down deep within the territory of the Western Sahara, away from Bir Moghrein town and even from the Mauritanian border.

In this respect we point out that French aircraft, used by the FAO and financed by the United States, are working safely and securely from Bir Moghrein within the framework of locust-combating operations.

I am able to state that since the beginning of the Sahara war, i.e. (?14) years ago, not a single civilian aircraft has been exposed to any disturbance within Mauritanian airspace and the Americans and others know this.

However, there are quarters which seek to sow suspicion among international public opinion in an attempt to drag other countries into the events which occur in the Saharan territories, in spite of the fact we are not concerned about this war, or the previous ones [as heard]. To make their claims stick, these suspicious Saharan sources claimed that a locust-combating operation is taking place in the north of our country and that Morocco and the United States are participating in it.

In fact, the United States is still giving us important aid in the field of combating locusts and Morocco [words indistinct], on its own or together with others, use this in our country. Whatever the situation might be, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania cannot but express its regret over this painful disaster which took the lives of U.S. citizens.

Overthrown President Haidala To Be Released

AB1212075188 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 12 (AFP)—Overthrown Mauritanian President Khouna Ould Haidala will be released on Monday along with five of his followers, the Mauritanian Government announced on television here Sunday night. The news came four years after a bloodless coup ousted Lieutenant-Colonel Haidala on December 12, 1984. The ex-president, his police chief Mohamed Lemine Ould Zein, security chief Mustafa Diop, military commander for the capital Breika Ould Mubarek, food commissioner Moulaye Hashem Ould Moulaye Ahmed, and civil service and higher education minister Athie Hamath, had all been detained without trial.

The coup was led by ex-prime minister and Armed Forces chief of staff Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya while Mr. Haidala was at a Franco-African summit in Burundi. One of the first decisions after the coup, which followed severe drought and alleged corruption, had been the release of some 60 political prisoners.

Former President, Others Freed

AB1212081588 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the 4th anniversary of the 12 December 1984 Movement, the following citizens have been set free beginning 12 December 1988. They are Messrs Athie Hamath; Breika Mubarek; Mustafa Diop; Mohamed Ould Haidala; Mohamed Lemine Ould Zein; and Moulaye Hashem Ould Moulaye Ahmed.

Morocco

Government Offers To Search for Downed Plane

LD0912203788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] His majesty's government expressed its deep regrets over the tragic incident to which the U.S. DC-7 aircraft was exposed over the northern part of Mauritania on the Moroccan borders on 8 December 1988.

Morocco expresses its deep pain in the face of this tragedy and cannot but bow in respect to the souls of the victims who were killed in cold blood while carrying out a humanitarian duty at the request of Sahel, Arab Maghreb, and other countries. This duty was combating locusts.

The Moroccan Government, offering its condolences to the families of the victims and expressing its sympathies to the U.S. Government, strongly condemns this brutal action and states its readiness to use all its means to facilitate the search for the bodies of the victims and for wreckage of the aircraft.

Sudan

Coup Attempt Reportedly Discovered 7 Dec

JN1012160688 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Dec (SANA)—The newspaper AL-SUDANI said here today that the Sudanese authorities discovered a coup attempt on Wednesday. The newspaper, which did not attribute this information to any quarter, said an officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel and a group of NCO's were arrested after asking a storekeeper to supply their armor with fuel.

The newspaper added that the authorities began to interrogate the officer and his group. It did not identify the side to which they belong, but said the investigation is continuing. It added that a senior Sudanese official refused to confirm or deny this report.

SPLA Condemns Libyan-Sponsored 'Invasion'

EA1212145588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Radio SPLA has learnt from very reliable sources emanating from the Army General Headquarters, Khartoum, that a contingent of 6,500-strong force of the Libyan-sponsored Islamic Legion has left Kufrah in southern Libya to reinforce their forces that have already occupied large areas of Darfur Region of western Sudan. The source, who is a high-ranking officer on active service in the Sudanese Army, asked Radio SPLA to expose this invasion to the Sudanese People.

Commenting on this dangerous development, the official spokesman of the SPLA condemned the invasion in the strongest of terms and asked the Sudanese patriotic political forces, including patriotic elements in the Sudanese Army, to heighten vigilance and combine forces with the SPLA to repulse this foreign invasion and frustrate treacherous attempt by Sadiq and Turabi to establish their own army in Darfur and to dismember the country. The spokesman said the threat to national unity has effectively been transferred from the south to Darfur and especially to Sadiq and Turabi. [sentence as heard]

In another development, the SPLA has secured a copy of the secret draft unity agreement signed between the government of Sadiq al-Mahdi and Libya. The draft agreement was signed by eight members on the side of the Sadiq-Turabi government and by five members on the side of Libya. Radio SPLA will read the full text of the draft unity agreement tomorrow, Tuesday, 13th December 1988.

SPLA Reports Capture of Libyan Pilot

EA1212145988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] About one dozen foreign jet-fighters have been making extensive bombing raids over the last 3 months. Cattle camps and villages in eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Bahr al-Ghazal have been their main targets, killing many innocent civilians and thousands of cattle, sheep, and goats. These air raids were intensified over the last 3 days. Yesterday at 1400 hours Sudan local time, one of these jet-fighters overdid the bombing and as a result ran out of fuel and was forced to make an emergency landing in an SPLA-controlled area. The jet is a MIG-23 fighter No 08918 and the pilot is a Libyan by nationality. His name is Sulayman Khalifal al-Shitati; rank: second-lieutenant and his home town is Banghazi. Both the pilot and MiG-23 are in good condition and in SPLA custody.

The pilot revealed that they fly in pairs and that the other MiG-23 was piloted by another Libyan pilot, a Major Salah Muhammad Tajir, who, he presumes, continued to Khartoum. The pilot was apprehended by the civilian population until SPLA forces arrived in the area.

The cha'rman and commander in chief of the SPLM-/SPLA has sent a warm message of congratulations to the population, SPLA forces, and commander of the area.

Commenting on the incident, the official spokesman of the SPLA said that the movement has been reporting this foreign involvement in the Sudanese war over the last 2 years. Now the SPLA has physical evidence in the form of a real live Libyan pilot and a MiG-23 jet fighter in good condition. The spokesman said Libyan involvement in the war is a great concern, firstly to the Sudanese people as it threatens the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan, and secondly to the OAU and other African countries. Yesterday it was Chad, today it is Sudan, and tomorrow it will be some other African country. The spokesman said the SPLA will take the matter to the OAU, UN, and to friends of Sudan who are propping up the Khartoum regime.

Tunisia

Further Reportage on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit

Speaks at Carthage Banquet

LD0912192788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1402 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at an 8 December Carthage banquet given in his honor by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear brother President Zine El Abidine; dear brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman; brothers.

I would like to express deep gratitude on this day to my brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to our Tunisian Arab people for the popular welcome accorded us today when we came to our home and country, Tunisia. [passage omitted: salutes all Tunisians who welcomed him]

You noticed, brother president, how your Libyan Arab people received you. When they received and welcomed you [words indistinct] they were expressing through this the love they harbor for the fraternal Arab people in Tunisia [words indistinct] have opened an unlimited scope for new expectations [words indistinct] the masses of our Arab people in Tunisia. Hence, I want to confirm today, rather, to reaffirm that 7 November is appreciated by the masses of the Arab nation, who are proud of you.

We say that on 7 November Tunisia has been placed in the (?forefront) of the battle being waged by this torn, dispersed and aggressed nation, which is humiliated among the nations of the world. We saw the Arab face of Tunisia which used to be covered, and the voices which used to be silenced have risen—the voices of pan-Arabism, unity, and liberation. Consequently, the way was paved for the unity and liberation process, and we must shoulder our responsibility [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The meetings held between us, brother president, after 7 November paved the way to the unity of the Arab Maghreb and the unity of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Dear brother, today we meet, and also with our brother, Yasir 'Arafat, on a famous occasion, the day on which the revolution of the stones enters its 2d year, in which the children of Palestine have proved that they are able to confront the forces of occupation with stones. The stones may not lead to the expulsion of the Israelis, who are merely part of the U.S. imperialist forces. The

so-called Israel is merely an advance base of U.S. imperialism: Many commentators consider it to be one of the states of the United States. We do not expect the revolution of stones to liberate the land or defeat U.S. weapons; its value does not rest there. Its value is not a material one; it is a moral one, an expression of rejection, an expression of the fact that no matter how long the occupation lasts, it will be resisted and rejected, and it will inevitably vanish. The revolution of stones is an expression of the will to reject the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

On this occasion, following a pre-dinner meeting with my brother, Yasir 'Arafat, I want to point out there has been intentional conditioning [takyyif] aimed at aborting the effectiveness of the struggle of the PLO and at aborting the Palestinian state, which is recognized by the whole world. I want to restore joy and hope to the hearts of the Arab nation's masses, the revolutionary youth of the Arab nation, the generation of anger, to the children of the stones, and to the Palestinian people by saying that the reports promoted this morning are baseless. [applause]

On this occasion, brother president, I want to praise you, your people, and the Tunisian soil, which hosts the PLO, for providing us with the opportunity of meeting with my brother, Yasir 'Arafat. We confirm to him that we support the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Brother president, I am pleased with the steps we have taken. We will continue our unionist struggle for the liberation of our nation, and in order to enable this nation to occupy its deserved position among the world's nations. I thank you, dear brother president, and I wish you success in leading the new Tunisia, and in leading the battle for the unity of the Arab nation and for liberation. The struggle continues. [applause]

Addresses Deputies 9 Dec

LD0912193088 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0908 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Chamber of Deputies, in Tunis—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, honorable brother speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, brother members of the Chamber of Deputies, brothers present:

I should like to express my high appreciation to my brother President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, to the Arab people of Tunisia, and to your honorable chamber for holding this excellent session to allow me to meet and talk to you. It is a great honor for me and for the Libyan Arab delegation which is accompanying me.

To begin with, I would like to tell you how we were touched by the brotherly and popular welcome accorded us yesterday. This expressed the warmth and depth of the sentiments between the sons of the one country in Libya and Tunisia. I would like to emphasize that I do not feel like a guest in Tunisia; it is my country, family, and my relatives. Similarly, when you come to your country, Libya, you are not guests or foreigners.

As a matter of fact, we are one family, members of the same tribe. It was the foreigners who conferred on us names like Tunisians and Libyans. Tunis is the name of this city only; there were no borders such as they are now known, and Libya was not known as such in 1912 when this name was conferred on it by the Italians. This name was conferred on the land situated between the French zones of influence in the west and south, and British in the east. To define this zone between these three zones of influence and the sea, the Italian colonialists called it Libya.

You know from all the books, you hear of Tripoli, of a country called Tripoli. This name was in fact given to Libya which was an Ottoman province until it was named the province of Tripoli. The word Trabelsi referred to a city only. Even regarding Algeria, there was no such state, geographically speaking, called Algeria. There was a city called Algiers. Likewise what is now called the Kingdom of Morocco is quite recent. There was the name of Marrakech, meaning the city of Marrakech only. Also Egypt referred only to Cairo. There was a difference between Misr [Arabic for Egypt] Alexandria, etc. Somebody going from Alexandria to Cairo would say: I am going to Misr. Thus, the word Misr meant just the city of Cairo. This applies, too, to the rest of the Arab world. Consider Al-Sham [Syria] and Al-Shamyyin [Syrians]. The word Al-Sham means Damascus. This is a categorical, historical proof that there were no distinct groups known as Tunisians, Libyans, Algerians, Moroccans, or Syrians. They were Arabs, and their tribes mixed with one another from the ocean to the Gulf, as you know. The Iraqis were cousins to the Moroccans and the Mauritanians.

What do you think about this small area which is erroneously called Libya and Tunisia? This means that the people who live in this small area between Tripoli and Tunis could be the sons of one tribe [words indistinct]. When I listened to the names of the members of the Central Committee of the Constitutional Rally, I thought that brother Zine el Abidine had appointed a number of Libyans to the Central Committee. [applause] This is because a number of the names I heard are Libyan names. Someone from Zwara might have gone to Tunisia to seek work and then (?he became) Tunisian. [laughter].

This is true. It is because what are today called the Libyan and the Tunisian peoples are in fact sons of the same tribes. What are called borders are in fact imaginary borders. (?The Turks) divided this land into a Tunisian part and Libyan part. The two brothers—one Libyan and one Tunisian—are actually twins. One happened to be west of the border and the other to the east.

The borders are imaginary lines which were first drawn up by the Turks and later confirmed by Western colonialism during the colonial powers' struggle for these areas.

We are now talking a lot about our identity and our past so that we may know who we are as we move toward the future. This talk does not consist of historical tales. The time has come for us to say these words. This is because if we tell our children and grandchildren that there are people called Tunisians and people called Libyans or Algerians, this a serious thing. In Europe there are French people, Italians of Roman or Latin origin, and Germans of North European origin.

Indeed, there are different races: The Aryan race, the [word indistinct] race, etc. but in relation to the Arabs, there are no Saxons, Arians, etc. we are one people. We are similar to the Portuguese people; in fact, we are even closer. They said that the Arab nation is like the Italian nation. Indeed, Italy used to be like us: kingdoms, republics, principalities, and provinces. We do not compare the Arab homeland, even when we talk now about the unity of the Arab Maghreb, the unity of the Arab homeland, we do not talk about them in comparison with Western Europe at all, or Eastern Europe. We compare our unity with that of of Italy, Germany, or France. There is no room for comparison between us and America which is one state because America consists of races [words indistinct], and it is only 200 years old. We are one people which grew and spread between the (?Atlantic) Ocean and the Gulf.

The so-called Berbers, especially from Roman days to the neocolonialist era, which the colonialists internationally promoted themselves under the slogan "divide and conquer," are indeed the first Arabs. The Berbers are the first Arabs, the true ones who did not mix with any foreign people. They are the ancient Arab migrations from the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, from the days of the Ma'iniyyin, the Sabiyyin, the Amaliqah, the Himyariyyin, etc. The collapse of the Marib dam and all those events, some caused by man and others by natural disasters, led to the migration of the Arabs across the Fertile Crescent, North Africa, age after age. Those who are now known as Berbers are the first Arabs who settled North Africa and who were in conflict with the Romans. The Romans were the ones who called them Berbers because they used to raid Roman colonies in North Africa. They live in the mountains because Roman colonialism forced them to live in the mountains and to fortify in the mountains. Hence, even in Libya, the Berber is called Jbali [mountain dweller]. This is the ancient Arab who was the opponent of the Romans.

The Berbers remained in the mountains until the Muslim conquest and then there was a real [word indistinct] between the ancient Arab migrations and the migrations that took place after the advent of Islam. The Berbers speak the old Arabic language which was superseded by the Quraysh language and the language of the Koran. Now when we read some manuscripts written in Arabic, we have a very difficult time to understanding them. If the Arabs are tested on some of the words in the Koran, it is likely that 99 percent will fail the exam. [passage omitted]

The Berbers speak an ancient Arabic; therefore, after the Muslim conquest, we found that there was a great linguistic difference between them and us. As a result, they found us strange, and we found them strange. The belief that Kahina and Kuthayna [Berber leaders] fought Islam because they were Berbers is a historical fallacy. They did not fight Islam because they were Berbers but because they were people of dignity and they feared that the Muslim conquest might destroy that dignity and their authority. They wanted justice and equality between the masters and the slaves. [passage omitted]

The conflict in North Africa was not between Berbers and Arabs. The Berbers were originally Arabs. Therefore there is no difference between Tunisians and Libyans. The difference between Tunisia and Libya is like the difference between southern Tunisia and the coastal region or between al-Jabal Al-Akhdar and the coast of Tripoli. Foreigners believe that the races in Barqa and Tripoli are different. That is what they believe in Europe. Not at all! This is the same tribe; some of its members live in Tripoli, others in Barqa and elsewhere. These are geographical regions but the people living in them are children of the same tribe. [passage omitted]

Hence, I think we must clarify who we are, and with these facts we must constitute a weapon with which we [words indistinct] if we are tricked by it, and if it is understood in a superficial manner like when one says: Algerian-Tunisian, Libyan-Egyptian, or Iraqi-Syrian. It would be dangerous to interpret it in this way. It would be like saying: Arab-foreign.

We know that Tunis is the city of Tunis, and Libya was the place where the Arabs lived whom the Italians called by this name in 1912 [words indistinct]. There is a psychological state which makes us feel that there is a difference or estrangement between us. I do believe that we belong to the same tribe. How can I wish evil to this part of a tribe that is mine, and wish good or [word indistinct] to part of it in Libya, for instance? If there is a useful thing to be realized for the Arab man in Tunisia or in Libya, and I am one of them, I must look at them with the same view.

Now they say: This integration between Tunisia and Libya... [Al-Qadhdhadi changes thought] Well, the brothers who came from Tunisia... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] Some people came who held this false concept: There are some people called Tunisian and others called Libyan. They do not know that we are the sons of the same tribe, that we are cousins. Some in Libya would say: Well, the brothers from Tunisia [who go to Libya and buy subsidized Libyan goods] have benefitted from the subsidized goods; they are selling

everything, and they enjoy privileges in comparison with Libyans. [words indistinct] subsidized goods, what does this mean? This means they are cheap, and you want to be the only one to benefit from them? What is the difference between you and a Tunisian? Well, if a Tunisian, after 7 November, wants to come in and become like us and he benefits from the subsidized goods in Libya, buying them cheaply, this is a good thing.

In Libya, they say: How come, he is Tunisian. Well, from a tribal point of view, the Beni Salim tribe all lives in Libya and in Tunisia. They are cousins. All those living in Libya and Tunisia are Arabs who are benefitting from subsidized goods. Those who are unionists would adopt this explanation. Even in Tunisia, when Libyans secure gains from their presence in Tunisia [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thougtht]...and effectively, there are mutual interests; even Libyans have benefitted from the removal of borders and their presence in Tunisia. In Tunisia there are people who [words indistinct] that the Libyans have benefitted from the open borders and their presence in Tunisia. Everyone was saying something. Well, [words indistinct] that they benefit. They have benefitted, all right then. Great, thanks be to God. We want them to benefit and not lose because what matters is that this one is an Arab, and this one is an Arab, and we want both to benefit. Therefore, we want both to benefit, whether here or there.

The outlook which differentiates between the Tunisian and the Libyan is, in fact, reactionary and sick. It indicates either ignorance and shortsightedness, or that the person with this outlook is affected by [words indistinct]. That is not good for us, it does not benefit us. [sentence indistinct]. After 7 November, brothers, Tunisia was born again. There used to be a humiliation of the Tunisian people because their will, as I said to you at the luncheon yesterday, was forged. Their existence was [word indstinct]. It used to be a nightmare, as if Tunisia did not posses one man, as if it did not have a will, as if it were not Arab, as if it were not Islamic, as if it did not have a history, and as if it did not have a future. There was no talk at all of the future. In fact, the future does not mean [word indistinct] Arab unity, socialist, the liberation of Palestine, resisting imperialism, and building an Arab power so that we can firmly take our place in this world.

All talk now is myth and stories— what happened in 1933, what happened in 1948. There was nothing but glorification and praise before the dawn, instead of praise for God [words indistinct]. The youth are looking forward to the future. I saw this new generation, the youth, yesterday in the streets. Of course, I also saw some elderly people, but the overwhelming majority in the streets were young. This annoys Europe; [words indistinct] how North Africa has become young and is growing, while Europe has become elderly and is declining.

There is a study of France and of all of Europe [words indistinct] the Europeans are annoyed and saying: Why are the Arabs in North Africa increasing in numbers [words indistinct] while we in Europe are decreasing in number, and the majority of us are elderly? Look at [words indistinct]. See the front that is opposed to us.

These youths [words indistinct] future. They know their history, but they are talking about the future. They only want to look at the past if [words indistinct]. There was no talk in Tunisia about the future at all, for a whole year.

I visited Tunisia many times and made many statements promoting unity between the two countries. I suffered a lot in this battle. I never heard tell of any possibility for talking about the future. The officials didn't have time then. Now there is a new generation knocking on the door in the name of Arab unity, socialism and liberation, Palestine's freedom, anti-imperialism, and the Arab nation. This new generation should not be ignored. This is a current and we should not erect dams to stop it. Some people ignore this fact.

It is only now that Tunisia has started talking about the future. What will happen in 1990 and the year 2000? What will our fate be if we remain as we are and if Europe becomes a giant, unified politically, economically, and militarily in 1992? I will repeat these words for 1 of 2 years and even longer, and I will compare the blocs which are being formed around us in the world. In fact this did not exist in the past. What have we gained, dear brothers, from the odious phase of regionalism and fanaticism and from withdrawing within ourselves behind the borders made by the French and Italian colonialists? What have we gained from this narrow [word indistinct]? We only copy the deys and the beys [Turkish titles] and those who own estates, lands, and the people living on them. This is the mentality which was prevalent and which collapsed on 7 November. [applause]

Europe and foreigners look at us and at this region and say that it must remain a consumer market to which they will export their useless goods. They also say that this region must provide their factories and machines with the raw materials.

They would therefore say we must not allow this region to become industrialized, make progress, and advance because then this region would be able to process its own raw materials and produce consumer goods which we would want to export to them. There is a high-handed, strategic policy on the part of the Western capitalist market, a policy of insisting that this region remain a backward area that consumes products from the West, a region that should not be able to exploit its own resorces and wealth. They say we must divide it into units as small as possible—divide and rule—so that we may become its masters. We must sow seeds of discord in it.

The French and the Italians created borders, and we now find ourselves in dispute over them, while they laugh. This is a conspiracy. They have made borders, and we

are in dispute over them [words indistinct]. This is a challenge. This policy is a challenge to our future. Therefore, somebody is out there planning to keep us backward, divided, consuming their products, serving as a market for their goods, a mine to supply their plants with raw materials. This is a challenge to our future, to our possibilities, and to our resorces. We must defeat it with unity, by exploiting and manufacturing from our resources, refusing to become a consumer market. Hence, policies which in fact call for austerity, for a reduction in consumption, and a limit to luxuries are wise. I believe that the program laid down by Chadli Bendjedid in Algeria and which led to the backlash is not a bad program, and it does not deserve the blow against it. But there could have been causes, quarters that exploited anyone with personal grievances, exploited the good nature and need of people, and perhaps also the cost of living [words indistinct].

But an austerity program in our region, a limit to consumption, a rejection of trivial European products, would be a serious and wise policy deserving appreciation. But he who urges us to consume the trivial products and waste of Europe and to continue our pursuit of luxuries and to be a consumer market, without consideration for building a power of our own, such a person would be deceiving us. We should not be lured by the sight of shops full of trivial European goods. Such a sight would entice; it appears to be good but it is harmful. It gives the impression of prosperity, that everything is there. But the impression everything is there is deceitful.

It is not necessary to (?have everything); we must have only the necessities, and we do what we want with the rest. Our production must correspond to needs and not to demand because demand is unlimited. We demand all sorts of milk: We start with milk from the she-camel, then cow milk, and then some might even ask for donkey milk, if you will excuse me. After providing milk from all these animals, some might ask for another type of milk, say from the griffin. This is demand for you. If we had to go by demand we must provide milk from all types of animals, and if one is missing this will mean that you are not doing your job properly. All you need is milk. You can breed a she-camel or a she-goat. If it is a cow from Europe, we will dispense with such milk.

Any policy characterized by flattery and the need to please people on the day will be at the expense of our future. We must prepare our national policies in a unified way. They must be characterized by austerity in order to build for tomorrow. I say these words as this is the first time I find Tunisia talking about tomorrow. Regrettably, whenever I visited Tunisia they never talked about tomorrow. They talked only about who was coming to Tunisia, about this captain or that. I could only hear their personal stories and tales. I never heard anything about the sacrifices made by the people or about their martyrs. I never heard anything about the people's future or about where they are going. It is only now that we have started talking about the future in Tunisia and about Arab unity.

If we talk about the future we automatically talk about Arab unity and the realization of Arab unity. When we move toward Arab unity we will clash with the United States and even with Europe and with the Israelis. This is inevitable. No matter how many gentle words they address to us—but which are hypocritical—their real policy is to oppose Arab unity because they have a commercial and military interests in keeping the Arab nation divided. If we throw them out of Egypt they go to Sudan because Sudan, Egypt, Libya, and Morocco are all states. We threw the U.S. bases out of Libya, and they were moved to other Arab countries. They laughed at us. They said: What is the use; we are still inside the Arab homeland, and we are still between the Atlantic and the Gulf. [words indistinct] This policy is against our future and (?incompatible with) Arab unity [words indistinct].

There are some people who say there is no need for material power; there is no need for materials. No, this is not practical. If you are morally defeated, this means that you are spiritually defeated. This means that all your values are trodden upon. [words indistinct] and our dignity and moral [words indistinct] our sacred things are trodden upon. When they came to these countries the Europeans ordered churches built. In the palaces of the khalifas, perhaps even in this palace, they installed a church bell, and they entered the great mosque here in Tunis and in [word indistinct] with their horses, [words indistinct] made in into a stable, the French made it into a stable. From this moral [word indistinct] and this treading upon our sacred values before our eyes [words indistinct] because we were defeated by them. This could be repeated.

Do not say that colonialism will not be repeated. This is a fallacy. Do not say that the era of colonialism has ended or finished. There is no era for colonialism. Colonialism could be repeated in any era if conditions are provided. There is no era called the era of colonialism, and another called the era of no colonialism. This is a fallacy. History stresses to us that colonialism will recur if conditions are repeated. The Bardo Treaty of 12 May 1881, according to which Tunisia left its independence in the hands of the French, still exists; not in Tunisia, but in all colonies. The spirit of the Bardo Treaty also still exists. This is because the conditions under which this treaty was signed in 1881 were repeated, and every time it is repeated [words indistinct] as long as the conditions are provided and the international economic, political, and military conditions are repeated again, then Bardo will be repeated. [Words indistinct] which stresses that Bardo has ended, [words indistinct] between East and West and between the occupied and occupiers.

Even now, they still look at us through the Bardo Treaty. Do not think that this is story ended in 1881. According to Bardo, the West,—for example, France—came to

Tunisia to protect the order and security of this turbulent country and ensure that the Tunisians feel secure. Even now, America says that it is in Chad, for example, to protect the order and security of this country which is exposed to instability from Libya, for instance. Not so long ago, the United States used to say the same thing about Tunisia: that its neighbor, Libya, threatens it with instability and that the United States wants to consolidate security and order in these countries. Thus, the United States should remain.

This is the Bardo Treaty! They say: We shall work in this country, colonize this country, continue with this treaty—this is what Bardo says—and that this occupation is temporary. That is; they are do-gooders who have come and exposed themselves to losses for the sake of something temporary: order. In other words, France was concerned about order in Tunisia. See the deception! It is a colonialist who wants to remain forever. Had it not been for the sacrifices of the Tunisian people, France would have remained until this day, tomorrow, or until doomsday. Those countries that did not struggle against France still have France's bases even now. These go back to the First and Second World Wars. France says that this colonialism is temporary and that it will be dismantled when the Tunisians are capable of protecting order and security in Tunisia. Look at this rule, this guardianship! A policeman, a father, a mother! Who gave France this right? It is as if the Tunisians were children, and only when they grow up will they be able to preserve order! It is as if France were concerned with their affairs and their security!

This is now the excuse of colonialism, wherever it may be found. That act occurred in 1881. Nevertheless, regarding neocolonialism, when the Italians came to Libya in 1911 they uttered the same words that were said in Bardo. They were also said in Algeria as early as 1830, before Bardo. The Bardo Treaty encapsulates the sprit of colonialism: We come on a temporary basis; we look after security in this country; when this country is ready, then we will leave it. On the other hand, the bey of Tunisia—whom we respect and hold in high esteem—could do nothing without an agreement with France.

Likewise, the United States, France, and the colonialist state say to the states where they have an influence: Do not do anything without our agreement, without consulting with us. America said: There shall be no union between LIbya and Algeria. Reagan said it, and he swore that during his tenure, the union between Libya and Algeria would not see the light of day. Perhaps he has even sworn by divorce, if the Catholics [as heard] may swear by divorce [as the Muslims do]. Yes, he swore by divorce that there would be no union between Libya and Algeria while he was in office. And in fact, it seems that Reagan is going to finish his term before a union is established between Libya and Algeria. Many a date had been fixed in the past for this union, but it has failed to materialize.

Perhaps this plot has succeeded in Libya, or in Algeria, or in both countries. I do not know exactly, but there was a veto against Arab unity. What does this mean? This means that because of the Bardo Treaty, Libya cannot do anything with Tunisia except by agreement of the United States [as heard]; Algeria cannot do anything without the agreement of the United States or France. In other words, the Arabs cannot do anything without the agreement of the United States and France. This is the Bardo Treaty; it still exists. They call it an agreement, but it is a veto. In 1981 they said: The sultan, or what was his name, the bey, must not do anything with any foreign state unless France agrees. In fact, this means that one is a slave to France, one cannot do anything without France's permission, and can only do as France desires.

The third point of the treaty says: The movement of weapons is prohibited in Tunisia from Bizerta to Tunis, or to this area, in order to protect security in Algeria because weapons could be moved from Tunisia to Algeria, and Algeria would resist French colonialism. This is exactly what they are doing now: Libyan airplanes are going to Nicaragua; they say it is prohibited; likewise in Mauritania they say it is prohibited for these planes to fly over it; the same with Morocco, for example. It is prohibited for these planes to fly over it. This is the spirit of the Bardo Treaty.

Likewise, it is prohibited for Palestinian fedayeen to enter Israel across the borders of Egypt or Jordan, and the governments of these countries must implement this order. This is the Bardo Treaty. It exists; it is being implemented. Palestinian fedayeen are forbidden to cross the borders of Jordan or Egypt; otherwise, the governments of Jordan or Egypt will have to answer for such a violation. They are duty bound to station their troops to guard the Israelis against the fedayeen, and if one crosses into Israel today or tomorrow, he would be caught or killed by an Arab soldier, policeman, or gendarme. They would catch such fedayeen. They He would not be caught by an Israeli. The Israeli would be fast asleep, enjoying peace, because there is an Arab guarding the borders against fedayeen.

This is the Bardo Treaty. It is only now, after the ending of the nightmare in Tunisia, thanks to 7 November and the courage of brother Zine el Abidine and his colleagues, and the rallying of the Tunisian people around 7 November, that we have begun to allow ourselves to speak about the future. And the first time we began to talk about the future, we found ourselves talking about unity between Libya and Tunisia, the unity of the Arab Maghreb countries, and about Arab unity.

The first time we began to speak about Arab unity we began to bump into the United States, France, the Israelis, states which believe that Arab unity threatens their interests. Reagan said: Unity between Libya and Algeria will threaten U.S. and Western interests in this region and in the world. Imagine this. Well, because it will threaten your interests [changes thought]...these are

your interests. As to our own interests, they will be realized by this unity. Thus began the confrontation between us and him. There is no compromise. Neither the Jews nor the Christians will be satisfied with you unless you join their creed; this was said by God, not us. God, who is their God as well as ours, said so. They will never be pleased with us unless we follow their creed, unless we follow the Bardo and the Camp David stables. They will thus be pleased with us.

Yesterday they claimed that 'Arafat had recognized Israel, but they told him: No, no, not yet until you hand over your Kalashnikov. Bring it, hand it over in the United States and say: This is my rifle, that is it; I recognize Israel. I told him: If you hand over the rifle and the cause, then what will you ask of the United States? There will be nothing left for you to ask of it in return. Return home then; nothing is left for you. What could you still want? What would you ask from them in return? Two hundred dinars or so, the price of the Kalashnikov? Quite possible. But what they will say to you is: Hand it over. they are not saying sell it. This is what they want. They will not accept us.

They say: Recognize Resolution 242, recognize whoever, recognize Israel, etc. And they say: No, this is not enough. No, as the Old Testament says: You will all come and stoop and surrender to the Israelis. Well, suppose the Palestinians recognize the Israelis. Will the problem be finished then? Well? And will the missiles with the range of 4,000 km and targeted at Tunisia be destroyed, missiles with nuclear warheads currently possessed by the Israelis with U.S. help? The United States has spent its funds on the missiles from the Star Wars budget, and the atomic power basically created by France for the Israelis since the 50's is currently being developed by the United States and West Europe. What will be the target of these missiles having 4,000-km range? They are targeted at Tunisia, Carthage, Bardo, this place, and at Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Iran and all this Arab-Islamic belt.

Why does this nation want to settle the rest of its millions of people in the Middle East and North Africa? Because the Jewish plan is the Judaization of North Africa. This empire should extend from the Middle East to North Africa at the expense of the Arabs.

And yesterday, Reagan issued an order lifting the embargo on supplying cluster bombs to the Israelis. You heard this. What are cluster bombs? Cluster bombs are designed to annihilate people. Well, are the Israelis going to use cluster bombs inside Tel Aviv, inside the West Bank? Impossible; they will use them against the remaining Arabs in order to annihilate them. And if the Palestinians recognize the Israelis, this will be a page turned, a trench eliminated. And the Israelis will now have to move to another trench in order to annilihate the Arab existence. We are not interested in whether or not Yasir 'Arafat recognizes Israel.

What interests us is the existence of a racist nuclear power hostile to us, racially and religiously, which is in contradiction with us—the struggle between us and them is one of existence—which is armed with the atom, chemistry, germs, and behind it the United States and the West, and which wants to annihilate the Arab nation in order to replace it with a Jewish nation. This is the truth. Consequently, we are not interested in 'Arafat's recognition of Israel; our struggle with them is one for existence, and it will continue. It is unreasonable that these missiles with a 4,000-km range are not aimed at Gaza or Acra. Germ warfare cannot be used inside occupied Palestine.

The Israelis cannot use their dangerous chemical and germ warfare weapons in the region they occupy. They will, however, use them in the Arab homeland, where they will not be affected. We are all liable to be strafed with germ, chemical, and nuclear bombs by the Israelis. Yesterday the U.S. President announced the lifting of the embargo on the sale of cluster bombs to the Israelis, for the annihilation of the Arabs and their homeland. This is a bomb that disperses several other bombs when it explodes. An ordinary bomb explodes and releases shrapnel; it becomes shrapnel. But the cluster bomb is full of balls, other small bombs; when it explodes, these other cluster bombs fly a long way out. The cluster bombs explode later. Shrapnel from an ordinary bomb do not explode; it flies out as shrapnel from the point of explosion. But with a cluster bomb, a projectile flies from the place of impact to another place, and then it explodes releasing shrapnel. They may be set to explode immediately or with a delay of 1, 2, 3, 4 hours.

The cluster bomb is designed to eliminate the human race! And this is a U.S. decision to eliminate the Arab race! Any hope that the United States would become neutral—as far as the Arabs are concerned—or a friend of the Arabs, is unfounded. He who holds such hope is ignorant and does not deserve to live. This is self-deception. This is a crusader power that is leading the 10th crusade and wants to control the Arab region, first and foremost, because it wants to lay its hands on the Suez Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar, Bab al-Mandab, the Strait of Hormuz, the holy places, the petroleum areas, the Gulf of Sidra, and the southern Mediterrean basin in its effort to encircle the Soviet Union. If the Soviet Union wants to fight the Americans, then they should go and fight each other in the stars over the Pacific Ocean, over Alaska.

Let them go, and God help them! But for them to walk over us to encircle each other and for us to fall under their feet, that is something we reject. Following the U.S. aggression, we called the Jamahiriyah great. We were asked why. We said: You, the Soviet Union, are a great power. They said: Yes, we are a great power. We said: We stood in the face of an aggression against you; 170 planes—this was an exercise for an attack against the Soviet Union! The facilities that were used against Libya

are designed to silence 60 percent of the Warsaw Pact defenses. They wanted to try them out on Libya first because Libyan equipment is Soviet-made.

Indeed, we are not armed by a middle power, such as Yugoslavia or India. We are armed by the Soviet Union. The weapons which we have are Soviet arms that are designed against the United States or against NATO. They tried out how they might attack Libya, which possesses Soviet radar, missiles, aircraft, and installations, and how they might silence it and make the attack successful. They brought all the equipment to be used in a third world war—170 planes, including ones carrying electronic equipment, as well as reconnaissance, ground-attack, supply planes and so on. Hooliganism from the United States to Britain; from the Atlantic to the North Pole, through the Mediterranean Sea! They belittle all Arab countries, as if there were no Arab countries on the way. They passed and attacked Libya! We told them: This is an attack by a superpower against a small state, aimed at a superpower but repulsed by this small state. Thus, the greatness is for Libya. Libya is indeed the Great Jamahiriyah because it confronted the attack of a superpower. [applause]

Libya stood up to the big powers, and it repelled an attack by the big powers. Who said that the 170 planes were not on their way to Egypt and we stood up to them? True, we said to the Soviet Union, (?you should thank us) because we saved you. Actually, they could have been on their way; that is, the United States was on its way to encircle the Soviet Union but if they wanted to encircle the Soviet Union, they must demolish and destroy all the positions which stand in the way, including Libya. Libya is in a position to put up resistance; therefore, it should be destroyed. As for the positions which surrendered and allowed the Americans to pass through, the Americans regard these as finished. They said that those who resisted were first of all Libya, and second, the Soviet Union. People were astonished and asked how this can be the case. There must be some mistake. You said Libya is No 1 and the Soviet Union is No 2. The Soviet Union should have been No 1 and Libya No 2 or No 100. They said: no, Libya is No. 1. They were persistent. Why No 1? They said that when they advance toward the Soviet Union, Libya will be occupying areas which lie on the way. Libya does not accept occupation, and it is capable of resisting; therefore, Libya is a priority and must be destroyed first so that the United States can pass through to No. 2; that is, the Soviet Union.

We said to them: Do you know that during the Second World War, the British put Rommell No 2 and the flies as No 1. They said: How can flies be No 1 and Rommell No 2? What could flies do to the 8th Army. We asked: Why should Libya, a little country with a population of 3 million, become enemy No 1? They said that it is in a position to resist. This is why it is a priority. The United States lifted the siege of the Soviet Union and intensified the siege around Libya. They said that the siege of Libya should continue and be intensified. Why? Because this position must fall, not because we are Libyans or because of the way we look. It is because the aim is to occupy the Arab homeland and any voice must be silenced and any resistance must be broken. The Bardo treaty should continue. This is what we are living through at the present time, brothers; we are facing challenges to our dignity; our piece of bread; our identity; and now, thanks be to God, we are going back to this phrase. That is, we have begun to talk in Tunisia about the prospects of a future without borders.

If we now talk about the past in Tunisia—and we should talk about it—this should be done in a way which differs completely from the way we talked about the past before 7 November.

We were talking about the glory of a person and about what that person did. Now we should talk about the glory of a people, and what that people have done. I felt very strongly when I did not find any memorial, except the memorial which we (?visited today), for the martyrs of the Arab people in Tunisia. I did not find an commemoration of the battles in which the Tunisian people lost thousands of martyrs. There is a hero in Tunisia, and I insist before you, at this honorable session, on raising these issues. There is a hero and I insist you commemorate and make a film about him, similar to the Umar al-Mukhtar film, and if you cannot make it then Libya should volunteer to do this, because he is our hero and martyr and this is our joint history, and it does not matter whether he fell in this place or that. It is the same. We consider 'Umar al-Mukhtar a martyr of the Arabs and a martyr of Islam.

He is a hero whose name is Sa'd al-Bennani. Now perhaps no one, but those who read the books, know him. He is similar to Umar al-Mukhtar. He is the one that rebelled against the Bardo Treaty, similar to the rebellion of the Arab Major General (Sarruq) who could be famous because he commanded the bey's guard. However, this one rebelled against the ranks of the bey enemy, and he gathered thousands of Tunisians and led them in the resistance and inflicted severe losses on the French before being captured. The same story as 'Umar al-Mukhtar. He was from the village of Bennan. He was sent to Kirouan. They gathered the people of his village and sent them to Kirouan just as they sent 'Umar al-Mukhtar to Silub to gather the people. Al-Bennani was executed publicly in order to make an example of him for the Tunisians.

This is what they did to 'Umar al-Mukhtar. They killed him in front of a large number of Libyans so that he would be a lesson and an example to anyone who lifts his hand in the face of colonialism. This Sa'ad al-Bennani is a martyr like 'Umar al-Mukhtar and his history should be resurrected so that it will give us ammunition to resist. We should not forget these martyrs. [passage omitted]

This is the problem currently between us and Italy, and Italy is now ashamed of it. This file has been opened to mankind. We have now opened this page, and we have said: Where are the tombs of 4,000 Libyans you took out to Italy, and where are their children and their grandchildren? Perhaps some of them have lived alongside you and married. Where are they now? Where are their children, their tombs? We want to pay tribute to their bones and repatriate them to their kinfolk. Italy is now at an impasse.

Instead of observing its commitments, Italy began to cover up about fascism. In 1987, they erased a very old memorial bearing the words: Here lie Eritreans, Libyans, and Somalis. They crossed out the word Libyans because there is now a demand for the tombs and remains of Libyans. Imagine, now in 1987, they crossed it out. This means that Italy is covering up for fascism, is sympathetic to it, and is linked to it. This is precisely what makes it responsible for fascism and prefascism. The prime minister who attacked Libya was a socialist, Giulietti, or whatever his name was.

Italy is now at an impasse because before the world, Libya is claiming from it 4,000 or 5,000 Libyan remains. These are the people about whom we had received lists, from Italy itself, from the jails of Italy. We said: Where are they now? Who committed such an act in any state of the world? Women and children of all ages were removed to Italy and were decimated. On the same day, just imagine, the French removed hundreds of Tunisians, Arabs from Tunisia, to Guyana. Now we must make claims to France: Where are their tombs? Where are their remains, their children and grandchildren? Who knows, perhaps some of the population of Guyana are Arabs who had been removed from Tunisia. And a number of those living in Italy now are Arabs who had been removed from Libya.

This file must be opened up, and stolen objects must be recovered. All the objects of art, artifacts, and manuscripts they had stolen from the Arab and Islamic world must be subject of to our claims. They still exist. This is no allegation. Go to the Louvre Museum; go the museums of Britain; the obelisks Cleopatra they removed from Egypt are there in Britain, in France. The obelisks are there, and they bring to them an income: millions in continuous income brought by our manuscripts and artifacts which are being admired by tourists from all over the world and examined by curious people from all over the world. This income must be returned to those countries from where these artifacts, manuscripts, and historic findings were stolen. This is robbery; these people are robbers. Did we steal anything from Europe and bring it over here? Never. We taught them medicine, geography, writing, science, industries, all the theories. We taught them about watches, aeronautics, astronomy, engineering, and algebra. The algorithms were invented by Al-Khawarizmi, the word algorithm comes from Al-Khawarizmi. We taught them literature. Shaykh Zubayr ibn William was Shakespeare. [sentence as heard] Shakespeare was Shaykh Zubayr. Shake came from Shaykh. Yes [applause with Al-Qadhdhafi himself laughing]. We even taught them literature. We are the ones who must be proud of Shakespeare. Naturally, it was his son William.

William is that writer. But William is the son of Shaykh Zubayr. Yes, Shakespeare is Shaykh Zubayr, and there is no doubt about that. They could not pronounce Shaykh Zubayr so they said Shakespeare. Thus the name was adopted. Yes, Shaykh Zubayr. We should not be ashamed of that because we are more refined and have more warmth than they do, therefore, we should never have an inferiority complex in front of them. They are our disciples. Indeed, this is what happened in the past. In Britain I had a disagreement with an English teacher who started criticizing the Arabs and said: I am your teacher and whatever. So I told him: Listen, we taught you, and we are your teachers. And he replied: This is all in the past. So he knew that it was true, but he said that it was in the past. In other words, we should restore our self-esteem; we should not remain just a thing of the past.

This file must be opened and the United Nations and all these organizations affiliated with it, including UNESCO and others, support us. We put it forward and they supported us. The Nonaligned Conference also supported us, and all organizations supported us for the restitution of the manuscripts, the stolen property, and the stolen relics as well as for the restitution of the bodies of those they deported, which should be returned to their offspring. They should also pay the price and apologize before the world for being savages and barbarians. They had no regard for us whatsoever, and if they returned today, this cruelty and savagery would also return. This is what is being applies now in Palestine and in Lebanon after they applies it to us. They killed our children in their sleep.

At 0200, America and the civilized European states, led by Britain...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought]. Usually, they declare: we are at war with you and at 0200 the fighting will begin between us, and then we could be at war. Not at all, it was by deception. The U.S. 6th Fleet left, on the night of its attack on us, sailed to the west of Sicily and headed north, to give us the illusion that there would be no attack. In the evening, the fleet returned through the Messina Strait which Hannibal occupied when he was ruling Carthage. He was right; he occupied the Strait of Messina because he knew it was a dangerous and strategic strait, commercially and militarily. You see, Hannibal was right; if he had occupied Messina, [as heard] the U.S. 6th Fleet would not have been able to go through this strait now. The fleet went through this strait via Sicily, returned to the east of Malta, and took offensive and defensive positions to defend itself against the Libyan Air Force and launch an attack which came from America, Britain, Italy, Spain, and all those states which participated in the attack.

What has brought me to this point? What led us to talk about this attack? Yes, they normally give a warning. There is no civilization at all. You think that they have a civilization, that they are civil? The same story will be repeated if they return. They once again apply it to us. Bin 'Ashur Street is not a military target; it is—as anyone who knows it—in the center of town. They bombed it and killed whole families. Bininah Street is in the center of Benghazi. They dropped several bombs on it to kill civilians, to terrorize the Libyan people. The main attack focused on Al-Qadhdhafi's home, family and sons, especially the bedroom, with lasers—the office, the tent, the bedroom.

See the civilized United States, civilized Europe! They are vile barbarians, by God, the imperialist quarters which rule the West. I am not talking about the ordinary citizens, they can be good. As to the ruling quarters—the capitalist, the imperialist—they are charged with a racist and barbaric spirit. They are vile and barbaric to the utmost. And if we do not have power, they shall never respect us. See, they did not respect Tunisia; they attacked it. The U.S. 6th Fleet brought Israeli planes to Tunisia and dealt a blow to the PLO Headquarters. They are the ones who assassinated Abu Jihad in Tunis.

They direct one insult after another at the Tunisian people, and they claim there are friends! What friendship? You give our enemy cluster bombs and then you say I am your friend? Thank you! What kind of friendship is this? I challenge the United States to give all of the assistance it is giving to Tunisia to the Libyan people; perhaps it gave Tunisia less than [break in transmission]...and Numayri who was going with them, and their agent, but they provoked him and told him abolish the Islamic shari'ah and we will give you $45 million. I, despite the fact that I had a rift with him, declared [break in transmission]...Numayri, although there was a rift between us, in return for not dropping Islamic shari'ah at the request of the United States.

If the Sudanese people want to drop it, let them do so, do they want to change it? Let them do so, at the request of the United States in return for $45 million. Despite the rift, we will pay $45 million and say to hell with the United States. Islamic shari'ah cannot fall at the request of the United States. Imagine? That is right, we challenge it even here. I challenge a committee of accountants and economists to evaluate U.S. assistance to Tunisia and the size of the benefits from the integration which took place between Libya and Tunisia. There will be no comparison! We will definitely find that the benefits of the integration between the two peoples are many fold to what the United States provides. And we are ready to challenge the United States and pay more than it to ourselves, because what we pay in Tunisia means that I pay myself, so it does not fool us. It brings 15 francs, 10 doliars, and tells you assistance with which to buy goods from the United States.

Tunisia, here is $10 for you, go and buy some products with it from the United States. [Words indistinct] You are giving me purchase power to enable me to buy your products. Are we kids who are still being mocked? We do not want dollars, or assistance, or sympathy, or anything from the United States. We only want it to spare us its evil, and not to be biased towards Israelis, so that the conflict remains between us and the Israelis.

I swear to God that Israel will be finished by military force in 24 hours by a real Arab attack inside Palestine, as long as the United States does not interfere and leaves us to deal with the Israelis. Whether the Israeli make satellites, or missiles, and so on, this is nothing but hooliganism which proves their weakness, and proves that they have doubts about their own existence. [35-second bread in transmission.]

Should all the bombs, missiles, and rockets fall on the Israeli bases, factories, communications, and positions, they would be finished. The Arabs have never ordered an attack inside Palestine so far. It only takes one Arab to lead an Army and to command an attack inside Palestine. Israel will be finished in 24 hours, or even less than 24 hours, but, in reality we are fighting against the United States. You will have to understand in the end that the United States is not a friend. It is a mortal enemy. The United States is the one who wants Israel to remain as a forward base for it.

When we talk about the future, and Arab unity, we are talking about the inevitable clash with these opponents. We should not weaken brothers, because we have the capacity. When I talk to such a small people as the Tunisians I understand that the sacrifices it has made suffice to defeat the United States. Three thousand martyrs fell in one day in Tunis. Banzart is not ancient history. Was it in 1963 or what? 1961. I was a student. I had put forward a request to volunteer. I thought I would go to fight in Banzart. Police kept following me. They said: This one must be up to something; let's see who is with him, and so on. They said: If you ever mention volunteering and Banzart again, we will put you in prison. There are no communications between Tunisia and Libya. Any contact is forbidden.

Why? They said: Communications are cut because of war. I was a young student. I put forward a request. I was eager. I had heard that there were battles in Banzart, so I thought I would go to Banzart from (Sebha) and Fazzan. They said no, and kept a watch on me. They did not merely reject my request, but kept a watch on me, and wondered what the story of this person who wants to go to Banzart was? How come he knows about Banzart? Is there a secret cell here or something (?of the kind) The battle of Banzart [8- second break in transmission] [words indistinct]. One should not say that the United States is strong; otherwise, Tunisians would not be a people who make such sacrifices. On Black Wednesday 1535 [date of the Turkish invasion of Tunisia] look at the victims who fell.

When the Turks arrived in 1534, 3,000 Tunisians had been martyred. Where is this anniversary, the anniversary of the 3,000 who fell? This anniversary must be marked and a memorial for it should erected, a memorial for Djellaz. And where is the history of Al-Jarrar? Where is the history of Martyr Amor Bel Hadj Othman? And Sa'ad Bennani, where is his history? And Manoubi, where is his history? Where is all this? Where are their memorials and the books about them? We did not hear about them. Maybe we hear about one person who did something and they imprisoned him and did various things to him. Where are the martyrs of the Tunisian people? Where are those thousands?

Like Libya before the revolution, we only used to hear about Idris al-Sanusi. They cannot conceal Umar al-Mukhtar. The proof is easy: There was a commentary on his anniversary which said: On this day Umar al-Mukhtar was martyred—They did not even say by the Italians. Sometimes they used to announce that al-Mukhtar died on such a day, and sometimes they used to say we lost him, as though he had died of malaria. In saying things like "in the village of Sidi Youssef we marked..." no one said that this village was destroyed by the French. Brothers, they said that this village was hit. Who hit it? It was not said. Why not? Because of fear? This is the passive form in Arabic.

The French hit it. Did the village of Sidi Youssef go to France or did France come to the village of Sidi Youssef? Who is the unjust, brothers? The French planes came to Sidi Youssef and destroyed it. Why fear them? They committed this crime and we come and cover up for them. We should not fear them or fear for them.

The same applies to the Americans with all their might. Might lies here [knocks on the table]. The people who provide martyrs should raise their heads. The Tunisian people have made many generous sacrifices. Thus they should raise their heads and not fear. No one can occupy their land so long as they can provide 3,000 martyrs in one day. Heroes of the resistance exist. Here is Tahar Lassoued, still among the living. He is one of the heroes of the war of liberation. Tell this generation that no single person liberated Tunisia, (?there were many people). Where is Ali Ben Khalifa? He is one of the heroes. Where is Ali Ben Ammar? Ali Ben Ammar, in addition to the name of the Alaouites, is a list of heroes [as heard]. Where are they? Let alone the leaders of the nationalist movement at the cultural and political level: Thaalbi, Kabadou, Mekki, Ben Azouz, el Shedih, Bouhadja, and Bouchoucha. Where are they? We have not heard of all of them.

Tunisia was dead and it must be revived, and its glory, history, and struggle must be revived. We are proud of the sacrifices of a people, the sacrificies of our nation, not of individual. The start of all these tragedies, brothers, came from economic assistance and mortgaged assets: the economy of Tunisia and of Libya. The economies of all the countries they colonized were mortgaged and foreign capital entered. If foreign capital enters, or there is financial supervision or intervention from the IMF, the World Bank, the United States, or France, this heralds colonialism, that colonialism has arrived, that the preconditions for colonialism are there. Among the preconditions for colonialism are debts, financial supervision, economic terms. The entry of foreign capital, and the provision of assistance. This means the advent of colonialism.

These are the preconditions for colonialism. Colonialism is repeated if its preconditions are repeated. The first step for the confrontation of all these problems and challenges and for securing the future is to hasten the unity between Libya and Tunisia. There is no longer anything which prevents unity. There is no justification while our will is in our hands, if we are independent. We shattered colonialism, we defeated it and became free. If you are free then unite. [Words indistinct] how can we sit within artificial borders. I bulldozed them. I was encouraged by 7 November and by Zine el Abidine and his brothers, and by the Tunisian people's rallying around this historic movement. Seven November is a star that has risen in the sky of North Africa.

It is the new star of North Africa indeed. Had this been before 7 November we would not have been able to remove the Libyan gate because they would have said this is aggression, and U.S. forces may have arrived at the Tunisian border in preparation for aggression and for the march on Tunisia. Seven November made me remove the Libyan border in which I did not believe. Whoever is not a unionist does not join the Al-Fatih movement. We do not recognize borders drawn up by the Italians who killed our kinfolk; drawn up by the French who killed our kinfolk. We do not recognize them. They should be removed immediately, and we should not fear one another. From the 1st day they said: how can a Tunisian enter without a passport or search? We said that anyone can enter.

Let us see what happens brothers and I did not decide anything. [as heard] After a period, people said thanks be to God, no one is better than our Tunisian brothers. How can they think like this? They are Arabs like you, or do you think they are our cousins, like in 1904 at the Tunisian Geographic Society, a Tunisian patriot called Bechir Sfar gave a lecture. After the lecture the French LE TEMPS wrote, by God: We understood from Bechir Sfar's lecture that the Arabs understand things like the French. See! They thought they are a race like us, they have culture and a civilization. Are we so strange to each other? They turned out not as they told us. Understand each other. Now it is difficult to tell the Tunisian from the Libyan. If you stop a Tunisian, a Libyan strikes out against this. How can you prevent him? If a Libyan policeman intervenes—of course the police will disappear in a few days and the people will operate a rotating system—if someone from people's security holds a Tunisian, another Libyan will say leave him, he is my brother I cooperate with him, live with him, buy and sell with

him, and come and go with him. The fear like the nightmare was lifted from Tunisia, lifted from Libya, from the borders. We do not fear each other.

What will happen? We are Arabs [words indistinct] or otherwise open our borders to the colonialists. What is better? All the Tunisians we saw—the workers, the students in the street should be guided in the confrontation with the opponent. The objective should be clear: It is the unity of this nation. As for the other empty [word indistinct], the yellow books, the talk about the veil, about the graves, about the rosary, about charms, this is indeed what makes us a joke in the eyes of the world and this is not the time for this.

I am very enthusiastic about reviving the battles which have been fought by the Tunisian people and about erecting monuments for the martyrs. We must bring them to life again because this is what gives us the fuel for resisting and for achieving our aims in the future. We are a nation capable of making sacrifices and can offer martyrs without limits.

I know that the Al-Zaytunah, mosque, the Al-Sadiqiyyah school, the Khaldoun school, and the public library; (?I know them because I have visited them), and we will also be (?going later) to say Friday prayers and (?visit) the Djellaz cemetery. I know that Al-Tha'alibi and 'Qabadou, as we already mentioned, and Sfar are all people who have played a cultural and spiritual role. They created the climate that started the Jihad movement and the taking up of arms; the struggle and [word indistinct]

Consequently we must not squander this heritage. We should respect it. But to deform it or turn it into humbug or yellow books of the Muslim brotherhood is absurd. In truth, it would be an attack against this heritage. Our struggle is a common truth. There were battles from Tunis to Tripoli against the Italians and the French. This was in the past. Now, we are one people. We have grown up and we are not under age and need no trusteeship. The Bardo Treaty should be torn up now. Do not say that it bas been torn up.

I know that it was signed in 1893 but it still exists. And therefore, we should tear it up.

France, Italy, and Turkey are all states from which we will request reparations, and ask that the items that have been looted should be returned and that they apologize in front of the whole world for all the tragedies that have been inflicted on our people in Tunisia and Libya and the rest of the Arab countries. Turkey handed us over to these enemies; these crusaders who persecuted us and retarded us until this day. They imposed on us Bardo and other treaties and [word indistinct]

We must wake up and realize that the nation has opened new pages of history and it should call for (?punishment), put an end to colonialism, and punish the colonialists, and those who colonized others should pay the price so that colonialism wil not be repeated. This is in the interest of peace and humanity. As for ourselves, we must keep our courage and must not hesitate to remove everything and tie the interests of the two countries and the two people together. This is what will be of lasting benefit to the people. America's aid cannot last forever, and America cannot be of benefit to us. America puts poison in the honey. We should give ourselves the pure honey.

You must not be deceived by France, America, or Europe. They will not offer anything except when you proceed according to the Bardo treaty: 88, 90, 91; [as heard] they want you to proceed according to the Bardo Treaty which was signed in 1881.

As to what is actually happening in Libya: there is no one to act on behalf of the people. There is no representation. Anyone who forms a party is a traitor; popular congresses; democracy is the ultimate end; congresses and committees are everywhere; the house belongs to the person who lives in it; the house is kept up by the people who own it; the student university is completely controlled by the students; the school is looked after by its pupils; the land belongs to all; each person should till it through his own effort and not through exploiting the efforts of others to fulfill his own needs; in need lies freedom and in freedom lies happiness; the chamber of deputies is a representation in absentia; and so on and so forth.

All these slogans in Libya represent things existing next to you. Look at them. If they are useful they take their course, if they are useless then they die out. We will never put them on the negotiating table concerning unity or anything. I do know that all the world will become a jamahiriyah, and the march to power is continuing. Everybody in this era seeks power, and a multiparty system is merely a step toward people's congresses.

In Pakistan they asked who wants to register, and in a single day there were 50 parties. This means that everybody wants to rule. They stopped there, saying: Fifty parties already means that within a week all the Pakistani people will belong to parties, with every party having 10 or 100 members.

These are precisely the people's congresses. The people's congresses are inevitably coming, and the people's committees are executive instruments. Decisions in favor of people's congresses are inevitably coming. This is the era of the masses, and jamahiriyahs will be set up everywhere. This is inevitable. Land will also inevitably become the property of all. Wealth will not remain in the hands of exploiters and feudalists. Workers, peasants, and the poor will raid this wealth and confiscate it and take their share.

The wealth of society will be distributed equally among society. But any development between us, any unity between us, must be in favor of the deprived sections, the toiling sections, the sections that have struggled, the peasants, workers, small civil servants, small traders; not in favour of exploiters, middlemen, and those who live without effort from the sweat of others.

It is like that. I have said this before. In fact, Maghreb unity I said that economic unity in the Arab Maghreb must be in favor of the toiling classes; it must not promote exploitation. Even in my interview with the newspaper AL-SABAH yesterday—read it once more—I said: This action must not be a development of exploitation, in favor of exploiters so that their wealth may increase at the expense of the poor. No, economic unity and economic action must be in favor of the lower classes. These are the classes that demand bread, the classes that die when the colonialist comes, the classes that sit up late, the classes that have no luxuries and seek necessities.

These are the classes that are useful to us to build industry, agriculture, and power. These are the classes that have no bourgeois demands. As for the bourgeois, they have no homeland. Their homeland is their stomach. If Tunisia is occupied, they go to france; if Libya is occupied they go to Italy; if Palestine is occupied they go to the United States or to Canada. This is the bourgeois exploiter; he has no homeland, no conscience, no dignity, never. His homeland and his dignity are his stomach. This is known.

We must not set up unity in favor of those who leave us and go overseas when hard times come. No, in fact, the economy grows and develops; any unity to be set up must be in favor of the lower classes, which represent the overwhelming majority. The fact that you are in a house of representation. We know that representation is nonsense. This is elementary; it was not I who said it. You cannot represent the circumstances of other people, and the proof is that... well, in Algeria there is a chamber of deputies, but why then did the angry people not go to the chamber of Deputies for it to hear their demands and order the Algerian government to meet these demands. The angry people did not say: We have representatives. They ignored them and went to burn schools and establishments.

Well, why have representatives? Representatives are supposed to speak for the people. Well, the people have demands. Why do they not speak with the deputies? Representation is bogus. Representatives do not know what the people want, their aspirations and wishes. Thus, if the closest person to you, your child, is sick, you cannot imagine the level of his pain, no matter how hard you try. And if he is happy, you cannot imagine his level of happiness. He himself expresses his pain or joy. Hence, representation is nonsense.

I would be a charlatan to claim that I know and will fulfill the hopes, aspirations, and wants of people. That would be nonsense. Thus, representation is nonsense.

The people should express themselves. There should be 1,000 forums like this one throughout Tunisia containing the entire Tunisian people. Every forum would have a few thousand people. These are people's congresses. Say what you want, decide what you want. You want exploitation? You want production? Left? Right? The people decide on their own responsibility.

In Libya, workers do not strike, they do not stage sit-ins. Why? Because the workers took control of the factories, they are partners in production and they manage the factories on their own through workers' popular committees. They cannot strike for even a day; otherwise, they themselves would lose because they do not earn wages. They take their share of the production which they produce every day. Partners, not wage-earners! These people are partners, not wage-earners. The problem of workers has been resolved. They do not say we shall strike against the manager, or against the company, or against the government official. There is no government official. They, the workers, gather in the factory like this gathering and choose a people's committee to administer the factory.

If they do not like it they have another gathering, remove the people's committee and elect another people's committee consisting of administrators, engineers [words indistinct]. Students do not stage a strike. [words indistinct] draw up their own resolutions. The people in Libya do not strike against anyone, nor do they demonstrate or protest against anything because they decide everything. The people's congresses decide what the budget should be, which country we should import from, what to purchase, what not to purchase, what to increase, what to reduce—they write this in resolutions which are passed on to the people's committees, the people's committees that are elected by the congresses. Such and such a person, you agreed to him [words indistinct]

Forgive me for taking so long but this rostrum is dear to me and the time that is spent here is not wasted. This excellent extraordinary session that you devoted to me is dear and very important and deserves that I open my heart to you and talk about the worries, hopes, and challenges that surround us, about our destiny and hope, and also about our past which enlightens our future. The efforts that you have made to come to this place, your dedication at this session require that I give it the appropriate time. Even though this time may be long I consider it worthwhile. In fact, I am very grateful for this reception and for this session.

I consider it an honor for me, for my brothers, and for your brothers in Libya. I invite you to your country, Libya, to the General People's Committee which is with us here. I invite you all to go to your country in Libya, to attend the people's congresses, to criticize anything, to

speak freely on Libyan radio—live. Anyone of you can go to the people's congresses and speak directly and be heard in Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan Libya, anywhere, and in Italy. [Words indistinct] people exercise authority in the people's congresses.

You have to ask: who brought this person here? You can ask: Who brought this secretary of the General People's Committee? Yesterday, standing beside 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was asking some young people: What is this man's name and of which committee is he secretary? We do not know them, although they have the rank of ministers in the traditional system, because they have been elected by the people. Some of them were teachers, others were university lecturers, others were in factories and others were... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] It is difficult to know them because they were elected by the people. From one appointment to another, they come from the Basic People's Congresses to the Municipal congresses and to the General People's Congress. In the end, we have somebody whose name we do not even know.

I invite you to go to your country [Libya] without a visa, of course, and without a passport and without anything and there you can acquaint yourselves with anything and participate effectively in the people's committees. You should participate and you can say everything. You can even say: Sorry, point of order, the appointments in this committee must be stopped. I am a Tunisian from the House of Representatives and I would like the appointments process to stop for ½ hour. Nobody should be appointed because I have not understood the method. Who has brought this person forward? How did you come to know him? Who has vouched for him to enable him to be part of this committee? How was he appointed? Who is responsible to whom? Where is the authority? How do you exercise it? Now I understand, good. I have an objection, this person is not suitable because of this and that. Do you agree? So your opinion can be taken into consideration.

Even when we achieve our unity, there is no obligation to have people's congresses in Tunisia as we do in Libya. There is no obligation. You in Tunisia can go to Libya and say everything at the people's congresses. You can decide on anything that concerns Libya and Tunisia at the People's Congresses. When you return to Tunisia, you will practice the system existing here.

I am indeed very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity at this dear place. Maybe I will not be given the opportunity to speak to other Arabs to express to them my innermost feelings the way I did with you because from the start we are one family and one tribe, and we are sons of the same tribe. Our capabilities are at your disposal and we stand by you for better or for worse. This is the real unity although I hope that there will be indeed a constitutional unity between us. There is nothing to prevent the unity of the Greater Maghreb, God willing, and we are working in earnest for its realization. Within the unity of the Greater Maghreb there is nothing to prevent a merger of Libya into one state. This has been agreed on. We set up a Maghreb unity and within it units can merge with one another according to the circumstances of the two, three, and more countries.

I am grateful to you, brother Slaheddine Baly, speaker of the house, and I express to you my gratitude for the welcoming speech and for giving me this opportunity. I am also grateful to you, all my brothers. Our common struggle will continue until the objectives of our nation are achieved, God willing. Thank you.

Meets With President Ben Ali

LD1012225188 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The visit of the brother leader of the revolution to fraternal Tunisia is into its 3d day. Here are details about it from our correspondent in Sousse.

[Begin recording] At noon today, Saturday, the brother leader of the revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the president of the Republic of Tunisia, at his residence in the city of Susah. The brother leader and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a meeting.

This morning the brother leader visited the light vehicle assembly factory in Susah where he toured various areas of the factory and listened to a detailed explanation of its departments and stages of production.

The leader was accompanied on this visit by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and brother Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister of Tunisia. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Confers With Ben Ali in Safaqis

LD1112144588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpt] We start this newscast with the most important topic for all of us: the visit of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Tunisia. This visit has had a positive effect on boosting fraternal relations. Radio correspondent Khaled Boumiza reports on today's activities in Safaqis.

[Boumiza] Tunisian-Libyan official talks ended last night and succeeded in establishing a joint formula for the press communique. It covers the various aspects of cooperation between Tunisia and fraternal Libya and will be issued this evening.

With regard to the Libyan guest, on this 4th and last day of his official visit to Tunisia at the invitation of his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, talks were held at the headquarters of the Sfax Governorate between President Ben Ali and Col al-Qadhdhafi. The

following officials were present: Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, and several members of the Tunisian Government and members of Libya's People's Committees.

These talks lasted about 30 minutes, during which time the final formula for this evening's communique was announced. [passage omitted]

Seen Off by President Ben Ali

LD1112165788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The official visit of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Tunisia which began on 8 December, at an invitation from President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, ended this afternoon.

The president saw off his guest at (Harq) region, southern Safaqis. In addition the house of representatives speaker, government members, the Constitutional Democratic Rally secretary general, province cadres, and the consuls of Italy and France in Safaqis were present. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Reacts to Downing of U.S. DC-7

'No Interest' in Harming U.S.

LD0912143988 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] So it was a missile that shot down a U.S. DC-7 and hit another at noon yesterday. [passage omitted] We have of course contacted the Polisario Front, which we immediately think of when a missile attack occurs in the region. Mustapha Sayid, the Polisario Front representative in France, made comments. According to him, his friends are not involved.

[Begin Sayid recording] We do not know in which airspace these incidents took place. The press agencies reporting the incident have said that there was a concentration of troops in the region. So we are asking why and in whose interest these civilian planes are sent toward real danger. [end recording]

Well, according to Mustapha Sayid, who is questioned by correspondent Corinne Moutout, the Polisario Front has no interest at this moment in attacking a U.S. target, on the contrary:

[Begin Sayid recording] The Polisario Front has no interest in creating problems with the Americans—this must be clearly understood—because the Americans are a superpower from which we expect a lot to help settle this problem and because the U.S. leaders, particularly George Bush, are favorably viewed by the Sahrawis. The statement recently made by Chester Crocker is, beyond any doubt, a contribution to the settlement of this problem. So, the Polisario Front, in fact, has no interest in doing any harm to the interests of the Americans. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Downing Said 'Mistake'

NC1112070088 Paris AFP in English 0650 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Algiers, Dec 11 (AFP)—The Polisario Front on Sunday said that it was responsible for shooting down a U.S. aid plane on the border between Mauritania and the Western Sahara on Friday [day as received].

In a communique released here, the Polisario said that its guerrillas had "made a mistake" in downing the DC-7.

They had mistaken two U.S. planes which were involved in the fight against swarms of locusts in the region and which were flying at a low altitude for C-130 military planes.

The Polisario said that the aircraft had been shot down by a missile at Gart Elhemmer near Moroccan defences over the Western Sahara. The Polisario Front is fighting Morocco for self-determination in the Western Sahara.

'Deepest Regret' Expressed

NC1112083088 Paris AFP in English 0825 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Algiers, Dec 11 (AFP)—The Polisario Front on Sunday said it had shot down a U.S. aid plane on the border between Mauritania and the Western Sahara last week by mistake.

The Polisario, in a statement released here, said its guerrillas had mistaken the plane, a DC-7 chartered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (U.S.-AID), for C-130 military transport plane, and had fired missiles at it on Thursday, causing the "tragic accident."

The plane, carrying five American aid workers who are presumed dead, crashed at Gart Elhemmer, near Moroccan fortifications in the Western Sahara, the Polisario said.

Another DC-7, also chartered by the aid agency to spray insecticide on swarms of locusts in the region, was hit, but managed to land in southern Morocco. Its crew were unhurt.

The Polisario said its forces had been surprised to see two aircraft, flying in formation at the low altitude of 6,000 feet (2,000 metres), and had fired anti-aircraft missiles. The "reconnaissance unit" that fired on the planes was "bombarded daily by Moroccan planes," the statement said.

The Algerian-backed Polisario Front, which is fighting Morocco for independence in the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony, has declared the air space over the territory a "war zone." In 1985, two civilian airplanes were shot down, killing five people.

The statement said the wreckage was found late Saturday by a team dispatched by the Defence Ministry of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the Western Saharan state proclaimed by the Polisario in 1976.

The Sahrawi Government expressed its "deepest regret" at the tragedy, adding that it hoped the incident would not affect relations with the United States.

Inquiry Team Formed

LD1112111888 Algiers APS in English 1035 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] SDAR (lt), 11/12/88 (APS)—A communique of the SDAR Government indicated that the Sahrawi defence minister constituted Friday a team, upon the order of SDAR president, charged with the inquiry on the American damaged plane in Western Sahara.

The inquiry collected the following testimonies.

"Two planes, looking like military planes of C-130 type, planing at very low altitude (6000 feet) came upon a unit of recognition [as received] of the Sahrawi arms about 27 km from the Moroccan defence wall in Gart Elhemmer in the River Tadayeght. [no end quotation marks received]

Therefore the communique of the government added, the destroying of one of the two planes is not all premeditated it is an error due to a mere coincidence resulting from fighting conditions prevailing at these place and time where the two planes in question occured and that for a small unit having no means of detection or identification.

"Before this tragic accident the SDAR Government expresses to the international public opinion its regrets, to the American opinion its feeling of deep [as received] to the families of the dead its condolences, and pays tribute to the memory of the missing.

"The Sahrawi Government who is to give soon the remains of the victims to their families is convinced that this tragic accident which is not premeditated, cannot affect the American-Sahrawi relations, we always wish to be friendly and confident", the communique of the Sahrawi Government concluded.

Oman

'Arafat Envoy Delivers Message to Sultan Qabus

JN1112143888 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, may God protect him, has received Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Fatah Central Committee member and personal envoy of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Abd al-Hamid handed his majesty a written message from Yasir 'Arafat.

Interior Minister His Excellency Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib attended the meeting.

Envoy Departs

JN1212105788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0905 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Muscat, 12 Dec (WAKH)—Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Fatah Central Committee member and the PLO chief's personal envoy, left Muscat today following a 3-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

'Abd al-Hamid conveyed a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman from PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat on developments of the situation in the Palestinian arena.

The Palestinian envoy was seen off by Omani Minister of Interior Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib.

Saudi Arabia

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 11 Dec

LD1112140088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1128 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Dec 1988, (SPA)—Yasir Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Riyadh this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Fahd

LD1112225688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2133 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Dec (SPA)—At his office in the Al-Yamamah Palace this evening, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The chairman was accompanied by Rafiq al-Natshah, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO's representative to the Kingdom; Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and political adviser to the PLO chairman; and Sulayman al-Sharfa, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information, who told SPA that the talks concerned the latest developments in the Palestinian cause. He added that the custodian of the two holy mosques reiterated the Kingdom's continued support for every decision and step made by the PLO to achieve the Palestinian people's demands for their just and legitimate rights.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for the continued political support and the continued financial support of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

King Fahd Receives Afghan Mujahidin Delegation

LD1112222288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2135 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his office in Al-Yamamah Palace this evening the Afghan mujahidin delegation led by Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the Afghan Islamic Alliance.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal and by Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

King Fahd Sends Condolences on USSR Quake

LD1012150288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Dec SPA—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and general secretary of the Party Central Committee, for the deaths of many Soviet citizens from the unfortunate earthquake in the Soviet Republic of Armenia. The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed hope that no evil would afflict the friendly Soviet Union.

King Fahd Confers With Omani Sultan 7 Dec

LD0712124388 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud, and His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, have held a meeting this afternoon at the Guests Palace in Nasiriyah.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guards; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud the foreign minister; Hisham Nazir, his excellency the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister and escorting minister; and his excellency the Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

On the Omani side were His Excellency Muhammad ibn Ahmad, private adviser to his majesty the sultan; His Excellency Shaykh ibn Hamad ibn Sa'ud, chief of the Sultani Court; Major General Ali ibn Majid al-Mu'ammari, chief of the Palace Office; His Excellency Yusuf ibn al-Alawi ibn Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in the Kingdom, Hamad ibn 'Ali al-Ma'mari.

Lebanese Shi'ites Arrested With Drugs, Recordings

NC0812133788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] According to a report received by the Voice of Lebanon, Saudi authorities have arrested three Lebanese Shi'ites and discovered they were in possession of Hizballah revolutionary recordings and a number of narcotics.

Interior Minister, French Counterpart Hold Talks

LD1112151788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1311 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Dec (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, interior minister, said that the Saudi-French talks, held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness and French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, covered all aspects of bilateral cooperation.

In a statement to SPA after the talks his royal highness said they discussed the possibility of using French experience and security cooperation for the benefit of Saudi Arabia and the development of its security organs.

His royal highness added: We found his excellency the French interior minister understanding and ready to cooperate and expand horizons in this field. He said that the talks were good and that readiness on the French side was good.

His royal highness continued: We are proceeding with the policy of benefitting from the experience of all friendly states in the world, in order to increase the capability of the Saudi security organs and to provide them with the best modern equipment.

United Arab Emirates

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives With Saddam Husayn Message

JN1012185788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a visit to the UAE to convey a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Upon arrival, he was received by Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, head of the Presidential Office; and Taha Rajab 'Uraym, Iraqi ambassador to the UAE.

Visits President

JN1012220688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2145 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Dec (INA)—Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, received here this evening Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister.

The personal envoy conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on cooperation between the two countries, emphasizing the importance of consolidating and promoting it as well as the current Arab issues and the need to enhance joint Arab action to strengthen the Arab nation and achieve its solidarity to confront the aggressive foreign dangers designed to fragment this nation. The personal envoy, Taha Yasin Ramadan, arrived in Abu Dhabi today.

Departs for Muscat

JN1112083088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Dec (WAKH)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Abu Dhabi for Muscat this morning after a visit to the UAE during which he delivered a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

He indicated that the message deals with a number of Arab issues of mutual interest, in addition to promoting bilateral relations.

Shaykh Zayid Receives 'Arafat's Political Adviser

JN1012114688 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, received at the presidential office this afternoon Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member. They reviewed the developments of the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels in light of recent PNC resolutions and the ongoing uprising in the occupied territories. They also discussed the situation and developments on the Arab and international scenes and the efforts to unify Arab ranks and achieve solidarity to serve the goals of the Arab nation and enable it to face the surrounding threats.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the presidential office; Shaykh Sayf ibn Muhammad; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Khalid Malak, PLO acting office director in the UAE.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives 12 Dec

JN1212061988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0554 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi from Riyadh at an early hour today on a visit to the UAE.

He was welcomed upon arrival by UAE Justice Minister 'Abdallah Hamid al-Mazru'i, PLO Deputy Charge d'Affaires to the UAE Khalid Malak, and officials.

Visits With Shaykh Zayid

JN1212105488 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the Al-Khaznah Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, head of the presidential office; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Khalid Malak, acting PLO charge d'affaires to the UAE.

Oman's Sultan Qabus Visits Military Base

JN0812112888 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and the great guest of the country His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of sisterly Oman, at noon today visited the Al-Zafra' Air Base. [passage omitted]

The sultan is accompanied by a delegation comprising Muhammad ibn Ahmad, his private advisor; Sayf ibn Hamad ibn Sa'ud, chief of the Sultani court; 'Ali ibn Majid al-Mu'ammari, chief of the palace's office; and Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Meets With President

JN0912133488 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id held a meeting this afternoon with his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the fraternal UAE, at the guest palace in Abu Dhabi.

The two leaders evaluated comprehensively the current situation in the Arab arena, efforts exerted to establish solidarity and support the joint Arab stand, and existing fraternal bilateral relations. The fraternal meeting also dealt with the international situation, new developments, and issues of mutual interest within the framework of coordination and consultation on what interests the Arabs and Muslims and serves their causes.

Leaves After 2-Day Visit

JN0912150888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman left Abu Dhabi for home this afternoon following a 2-day visit to the UAE.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, led those who saw his majesty the Omani monarch off. Also on hand to see the Omani monarch off were senior UAE civic and military officials.

PDRY Official Delivers Message to President

JN0512142188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1255 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a message from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, dealing with the fraternal relations and joint cooperation between the two countries as well as the current Arab situation.

The message was conveyed by Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals, currently visiting the UAE, when his highness the UAE president received him here this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Discusses Petroleum Cooperation

JN0512194988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—The official round of talks between the UAE delegation headed by Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, and the PDRY delegation headed by Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, minister of petroleum and resources, was held this evening.

After the session, the PDRY official stated that the discussions dealt with various fields of cooperation between the UAE and the PDRY, especially in the field of petroleum.

He affirmed that discussions were beneficial and constructive and will contribute toward promoting and strengthening bilateral petroleum cooperation. They will also open wider scopes in this vital field since it is beneficial to both nations.

Petroleum Minister Cited on Quota, Reserves

JN1212132088 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] His Excellency Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, has said that in pursuance of instructions by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, president of the state, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent, deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and chairman of the Higher Council for Petroleum, the UAE exerts all efforts to serve OPEC and all its member states concerning basic issues and the settlement of differences among them regarding production ceilings and distribution of quotas.

In a comprehensive interview with the newspaper AL-KHALIJ published today, his excellency said that the UAE has honorable and memorable stands in supporting OPEC in the past, the present, and the future.

On the UAE quota, described as the nonofficial quota, and regarding a fair quota for the UAE, Dr al-'Utaybah said that the UAE pledged in the recent OPEC meeting not to complain about the UAE's quota. He said that the OPEC member states, on the other hand, understand the UAE stand.

His excellency explained that the UAE possesses large petroleum potential as its extractable fixed reserves have reached 120 billion barrels, and is increasing continuously. He indicated that this figure places the UAE second in the world in terms of reserves after Saudi Arabia. He said the UAE production capacity has reached 4 million barrels per day.

'Responsible Source' on Iranian Opposition

JN1012103488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 10 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—The British publication FOREIGN REPORT reports that Iraq has secretly made a concession to Iran during the current peace negotiations between them. This concession is that if a peace agreement is made, the Iranian opposition group, the Mohjahedin-e Khalq organization, will not be allowed to operate from Iraqi territory. The publication also says that the leaders of this organization who reside in Iraq will be told that they can either stay in or leave the country. If they decide to stay they will have to pledge in writing that they will abandon their political activities.

Commenting on these cheap allegations and false claims, a responsible source in the Ministry of Culture and Information stated the following to INA: Iraq is not the type to bargain in secret over alliances and friendships. The ethical bases on which we establish our friendships are based on clarity, frankness, and the rejection of any bargaining. This is the basis of our relations and we will never step as low as the wishes of our enemies or those who fish in troubled political waters.

'Source' Denies Summit Campaign in Baghdad

JN1112113888 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 11, INA—A responsible source at the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information denied what had been said by REUTERS NEWS AGENCY, who quoted Arab diplomats in Kuwait as saying that Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are leading a campaign to hold an Arab summit conference in Baghdad, which will be the first since the announcement of an independent Palestinian state.

The source told INA that Iraq's attitude was and still is to stress on holding the ordinary Arab summit in Saudi Arabia. The source said that this news is totally baseless and that Iraq did not call to hold a summit conference in Baghdad and did not discuss this idea with any Arab, although Baghdad is for all the Arabs and it always welcomes any Arab brother. He added that the Iraqi attitude has stressed the necessity of holding the ordinary summit conference in Saudi Arabia as scheduled, unless the Saudi brethrens apologise, for any reason, not to hold the summit there, and at that time, the source said, the Arabs will discuss the possibility of holding it in another place other than Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn Sends Condolences to Gorbachev

JN1012121088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent his condolences and that of the Iraqi leadership and people to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership and people for the victims of the earthquake that afflicted the Armenian SSR on Wednesday.

Ramadan Returns From UAE, Oman; Makes Statement

JN1112174488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President leader Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, returned to Baghdad this evening after a 2-day visit to the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman. In a statement upon returning, Ramadan said he conveyed two messages to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id dealing with bilateral relations, the importance of promoting cooperation in all areas to achieve progress and power for the Arab nation, the current Arab situation, the need to intensify coordination and consultations to push forward joint Arab action, and achieve an Arab solidarity to confront the plots and challenges facing the Arab nation.

Ramadan also said that Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id asked him to carry their greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn and stressed their great pride in their countries' relations with Iraq and their desire to promote cooperation in all areas. They also emphasized that Iraq's power and victory serve all the Arabs, praised the victories achieved by the Iraqi people under President leader Saddam Husayn, and hailed the Iraqi leadership's serious efforts to bring about just, lasting, and comprehensive peace according to Security Council Resolution No 598 and the sequence of its provisions.

Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that the stands of the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman are identical with that of Iraq, which lays an emphasis on the need for serious and effective Arab action to achieve Arab solidarity at this stage. He described the results of his visit as very important and as having produced very positive results, which will continue to bolster and expand relations between Iraq on one hand and the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman on the other. He added that these positive results will also contribute to achieving a unified and strong Arab position. Ramadan was received by RCC member Hasan 'Ali and a number of ministers.

Oil Company Director Discusses Current Projects

JN0612132488 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 6, INA—The Iraqi Oil Projects Company is currently executing a number of oil projects throughout the country at a total cost of 1.75 billion Iraqi dinars [ID], said Dr. 'Ali Nuri 'Ali, director general of the company. The oil projects implemented by the company, an affiliate of the Ministry of Oil, include gas processing, oil field developing, oil transportation schemes, as well as Phase 2 of the strategic across-the-country oil pipeline.

The English language "BAGHDAD OBSERVER" daily, in an article here today quoted Dr. 'Ali as saying that 39 different oil projects have been executed by the company using the direct implementation method. The projects, the overall cost of which totalled ID 241.6 millions, included a number of vital and strategic projects which have provided the country with valuable services at this stage. These include laying down 3000 kilometres of 10 to 24 inch pipelines in various parts of the country which were used for transporting gas, oil derivatives and crude oil. Some 200 oil reservoirs of a total capacity of two million cubic metres were set up in Ba'iji, Hammam al-'Alil, Karkuk, Baghdad, Basra al-Kut and Al-Nasiriyah towns.

The director general said that the company has been able to reduce the cost of a number of giant oil projects by becoming itself the major contractor. The main projects set up in this method included the northern gas complex, the southern gas complex and the north oil refinery plant. He said that in the period from 1976 to 1980 the company set up 12 oil projects, on turn key method, at a cost of ID 222.7 millions. Twenty-three other projects costing a total of ID 47.2 millions were implemented by the direct implementation method.

Dr. 'Ali pointed out that during the war, from 1981 to 1985, 30 different oil projects at a cost of ID 763,170 millions were carried out. These include 14 projects at a cost of ID 202,322 implemented by turn key contracts, 12 projects were set up by Iraqi staff of the company and four other projects were executed jointly by the company and sub-contractors.

Oil Minister Returns From London Seminar
JN0912103088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi returned to Baghdad at dawn today after participating in a world seminar on the oil market's future organized by THE FINANCIAL TIMES which concluded work in London the day before yesterday.

During the seminar, the minister discussed the new changes in the oil market and its short-and long-term developments in light of both the OPEC member states' experience and the comprehensive production agreement reached by the member states at the ministerial meeting recently held in Vienna. He stressed the need for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers in order to support the stability of the oil market. He also stressed the need for cooperation between producers and consumers in order to achieve this objective to benefit all the world's states. He also pointed to the prominent role Iraq is playing within OPEC in order to enhance OPEC's role and achieve its objectives, not only because Iraq is a member state of OPEC but also in light of Iraq's huge oil reserves and its production and exportation capabilities. He emphasized Iraq's firm readiness to play a positive, effective role in order to bolster OPEC's role and secure the interests of its member states.

Chadian Envoy Gives Message to RCC Vice Chairman
JN1012134488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Chadian President Hissein Habre. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim received the message during a meeting today with Korom Ahmed, personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Chadian President Hissein Habre and minister at the Chadian Presidency in charge of financial affairs. The RCC vice chairman asked the Chadian envoy to convey President Saddam Husayn's regards to Hissein Habre as well as his wishes of progress and prosperity to the Chadian people. 'Izzat Ibrahim affirmed Iraq's concern to strengthen relations with Chad and its support for Chad due to the historical ties and the two countries' common interests.

The Chadian envoy expressed his country's pride in the material and moral support as well as Iraq's honorable stand in achieving national reconciliation—in harmony with Iraq's support for his country.

Trade Minister Returns From Argentina, Jordan
JN0812122788 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 8, INA—Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, last night returned to Baghdad after a week-long visit to Jordan and Argentina. During his visit to Argentina, Mr. Salih held talks with his counterpart and officials at an economic establishment there on means of developing economic relations and increasing volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

While in Amman, the Iraqi minister attended part of the meetings now held in Amman by the Arab Economic Unity Council to Discuss the international economic conditions, a report concerning the common Arab market and a program for promoting trade exchange among the council member states.

Labor, Likud To Negotiate Broad-Based Government

TA1112104188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] This morning, just before the Cabinet session, a meeting was held between Shamir and Peres with the participation of Ministers Rabin and Arens. It was decided to commence negotiations on the formation of a broad-based government immediately and to conclude the talks as quickly as possible.

Each party is to be represented in the discussions by a team of three representatives. The Labor Party team will be comprised of Moshe Shahal, Hayim Bar-Lev, and Rafi Edri and the Likud team will include Moshe Arens, Dan Meridor, and David Levi. Our correspondent adds that one of decisions made at the meeting was that the negotiations will begin at the point at which they were halted approximately 10 days ago. In other words, the agreements already reached by the two sides will serve as the basis for the renewed negotiations. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Likud 'To Avoid' Giving Peres Foreign Portfolio

TA1112183588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Report by political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After this morning's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir invited Minister David Levi to join the Likud negotiating team. Mr Shamir explained that the Likud team's task will be to avoid giving the foreign portfolio to Shim'on Peres, the Treasury being preferable.

Minister Levi told the prime minister that this directive is doubly difficult. First of all, it is contrary to the terms Mr Shamir had offered to the Alignment, according to which Peres would be able to choose one of the two senior portfolios—foreign or Treasury. The exclusion of one of them at the beginning of the negotiations is not compatible with the prime minister's terms. Levi added that a broad-based government united on the issue of the PLO's political offensive is necessary at this stage, and it is a recognized fact that the Likud and the Alignment are unanimous on this point. The other aspect to which Levi objects is taking the Treasury away from the Likud. For these reasons, Levi notified Shamir that he would not join the Likud negotiating team.

The prime minister has therefore appointed Ministers Arens and Qatzav, and Knesset Member Meridor to sit on the team which is to launch negotiations with the Alignment team tomorrow. Today's attempts to arrange a meeting between the teams failed.

Likud, Labor Teams Begin 'Secret' Talks

TA1212055488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Negotiating teams of the Likud and Labor held talks last night for the first time since last week's Labor Central Committee decision to renew negotiations over a national unity government, this despite announcements by both sides that the first meetings would not be held until today. David Ze'ev reports:

The secret meeting took place at the office of Likud Minister Moshe Arens in East Jerusalem. The talks lasted 2 hours. Arens, Moshe Qatzav, and Dan Meridor told the Labor representatives they were ready to resume the negotiations where they were left off at the end of last month, when the Labor Party Bureau voted against further talks with the Likud.

The Likud offer includes two senior ministerial positions to Labor—defense and either the foreign affairs or Treasury portfolio. The Likud team told the Laborists Rafi Edri, Moshe Shahal, and Hayim Bar-Lev the Likud prefers to give Labor the Finance Ministry. For their part, the Labor officials said, their party was not bound by the Likud agreements with the small right-wing and ultraorthodox parties. They also objected to the Likud demands that it have one more minister in the government.

The meeting between the two sides followed briefings by Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres to their negotiators. Shamir told his team not to accept the disqualification of the agreements with the smaller factions, which include the Who Is a Jew issue and commitments made to Tehiya and the National Religious Party that 40 settlements be established in the territories over the next 4 years. Peres, with Yitzhaq Rabin also in attendance, told his negotiators that Labor insists on playing an active role in the diplomatic process.

The Likud and Labor negotiators last night did agree to give the peace process priority and to set a timetable for passing electoral reform. The teams are to break up into smaller groups to discuss the issues in greater depth.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 12 December adds: "Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that in a meeting of the Alignment ministers last night, most ministers tried to persuade Shim'on Peres to accept the finance portfolio. Only two ministers, 'Ezer Weizman and Yitzhaq Navon, thought the Labor Party would be better off accepting the foreign affairs portfolio. Mr Peres has not yet announced his decision. Alignment officials last night again tried to ascertain whether the Likud would agree to rotating the premiership, but they got a negative response. The two parties apparently agree that the government's composition and basic guidelines should be similar to those of the outgoing government, with some changes called for by developments in the region. The number of ministers of each

party would be equal, an Inner Cabinet would be established with an equal number of ministers from each party, and mutual control mechanisms would be introduced. Just to cite one example, if the finance portfolio is given to the Alignment, a Likud man would be appointed deputy finance minister or chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee."]

Shomron Holds News Conference on IDF Operation

TA0912145088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1310 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Report by Karmela Menashe, military affairs correspondent, on news conference held by Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, IDF chief of staff, on the 8 December operation in Lebanon "a short while ago" in an unspecified location]

[Text] Despite the heavy price exacted of us, the life of Lieutenant Colonel Amir Meytal, a battalion commander in the Golani Brigade, the operation was highly valuable although its effect cannot be felt immediately. In the long run, however, the outcome of the operation will be felt, and we will be able to see the difference. The chief of staff made these remarks in a news conference that ended a short while ago.

He added that in trying to check terrorism, there is no alternative but to operate along various parallel channels. Certainly an operation like the one that was launched yesterday involves risks, but then a head-on collision is just as risky.

[Begin Shomron recording] According to our initial debriefings in this operation, the terrorists belonging to Jibril's organization suffered at least 20 casualties. Others were hurt. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1305 GMT on 9 December carries a report on the news conference in which Shomron further states, "We attached a great deal of importance to attacking the area of its command, the area of the training camp in Lebanon, of course, an area from which a large number of this organization's attacks against us are launched. A great deal of the planning is done in this place, and reflected, ultimately, in the activity against us."]

Allow me to take this opportunity to correct something reported by the media: We did not exchange fire with the Syrians. In fact, there was no contact with the Syrians throughout the operation.

I would also like to emphasize that in this operation—which I believe was successful in terms of its achievements, and very important insofar as the psychological effect and its long-term impact on Jibril's organization—a four-member Israeli squad led by an officer, and operating in difficult terrain at the target area, found itself cut off from the rest of the unit. We lost radio communication with them. After the operation, as the unit was returning, it found that this foursome still remained in the target area. The decision to return without conducting further searches for the missing soldiers was mine. It was not an easy decision, but of course, simultaneous with that decision, I also decided to take all necessary measures to rescue our soldiers. This was carried out first of all by the Air Force, which neutralized the terrorists' ability to search the area themselves and find our fighters, and also by searches carried out on land. The moment we located and identified them, they were evacuated back home.

While hiding, the squad, which consisted of four Golani soldiers, killed three terrorists who approached them. A four-member squad is not such a small unit and could survive in the area. That was my basic assumption. I believed that the four of them were together and had a rather good chance of surviving. We knew we would find them.

The units that participated in this operation were superior. They belong to the Golani Brigade, an elite navy unit, as well as members of crack IDF units. Naturally, officers from other units also join such operations to provide them with an opportunity to gain experience and learn from such an operation as it is being conducted. [end recording]

Further on Rescue Operation

TA0912153588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Report by Karmela Menashe, military affairs correspondent, on question-and-answer segment at end of news conference held by Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of IDF General Staff]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Menashe] According to the information you have, did the terrorists know that several soldiers from the unit were left behind?

[Shomron] Judging by the information that we have, the terrorists had no idea that some soldiers remained behind, although they did sense that we were not leaving the area. They noticed that we were continuing to conduct searches utilizing various means, and pursuing attacks on every terrorist squad attempting to enter and search the area. I can surmise that they became suspicious, this is the best way I can express it. They sensed that something was going on, although they had no substantial indication that any of the soldiers were left behind.

As to the question of how one goes about rescuing those who are left behind in such cases, the primary condition is the proper identification of our soldiers. They were hiding, which made identification more difficult. Nonetheless, when they spotted our helicopter they knew that it was ours and, naturally, reacted accordingly. Additionally, our helicopter pilots knew what to look for and where. As you can see from this picture, there was also a small pilotless plane that told them where terrorists could be found, and where there was a chance that our soldiers might be found.

They were thus reached. I must also point out that helicopters flying at a very low altitude, in an area teeming with terrorists, encounter quite a few risks. Nevertheless, when this activity is done properly, there are definitely good chances for emerging unscathed, naturally with the soldiers on board. [end recording]

[Menashe] There were three major targets, and many minor objectives. One of them included a headquarters complex, a training area where squads prepare for operations, an underground headquarters, and an arms cache. Approximately 100 fighters belonging to Jibril's organization were found in the target area. The chief of staff said that a senior organization commander, Abu Jamil, was killed. There were only short-range exchanges of fire, and Syria did not interfere. The chief of staff pointed out that this is not the last operation. We hit the commanders, but in the long run the terrorists will have to invest large amounts of resources and forces in order to defend themselves.

Shamir To Begin Talks With Palestinians

TA0912123788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Dec 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will begin talks with representatives of Palestinians in the territories immediately after presenting his government. The aim is to end the intifada [uprising] on the foundation of a proposal based on the autonomy plan.

Details were presented by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. The initiative includes a call to Egypt and Jordan to participate in the peacemaking efforts in the region.

AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah told MA'ARIV that in view of the election results in Israel, there might be a positive response to Shamir's initiative, which is to include negotiations with leaders in the territories on an interim solution. Other public figures in the territories believe that a unilateral Israeli initiative might make it easier on the inhabitants of the territories. They said that in such a situation a representation from the territories would agree to hold talks with the Israelis, and even reach an understanding, on the condition that they would not be asked to sign any document.

Prof Hashim Sharabi of Washington, who is identified with the pragmatic wing of the PLO and who is close to Yasir 'Arafat, showed MA'ARIV the conditions the Palestinians would present if they agree to respond to such an initiative: The release of all the activists arrested at the start of the uprising, including Faysal al-Husayni; permission for all representatives from the territories to go abroad for consultations; the holding of free elections under international supervision; and unlinking the initiative from the Camp David accords.

Yosi Ben-Aharon said in reply: "The principle must be the contents and not the framework. They can declare a break with the Camp David accords on the condition that they enter negotiations on autonomy, and provided that the sides understand that these talks involve only an interim stage which would be a test of the ability to make progress."

Shamir: No Talks With PLO

TA1112055888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says that as soon as he sets up a new government he will call on every Arab leader to open direct talks with Israel without pre-conditions, but he emphasized he would not under any circumstances negotiate with the PLO. He told the opening session of the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum in Tel Aviv that the PLO's object is not peace, but its opposite.

[Begin Shamir recording] Its acceptance of Israel and Resolution 242 are an exercise in deception. It is yet another example of 'Arafat's capacity—and that of his tutors—to emulate and even surpass the Goebbels' propaganda tricks of the big lie. The PLO says it will renounce terrorism, and then goes on to say that its activities are not terrorist in nature, but a legitimate struggle for liberation. We cannot understand how some Western governments hailed 'Arafat's lies about terrorism when his gangs continue to this day to mount hundreds of terrorist threats on our people and on other nations. If they have not succeeded in most cases it is because of our exceptional security services and our military. [end recording]

USSR Reportedly Rejects Syrian Arms Request

TA1212112888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by Ya'aqov Lamdan]

[Text] Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Talas was recently rebuffed by the Kremlin when he requested sophisticated armaments, according to the Lebanese weekly AL-MUHARRAR.

Talas was told bluntly, according to the weekly, that more modern armaments at this stage would harm Syria instead of helping her; they would be perceived by Israel as a provocation and could bring about a pre-emptive war against Syria. The Soviets added that more modern armaments for Damascus would damage efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The Syrians had asked for advanced air-defence systems, long range ground-to-ground missiles, MiG-29's, Sukhoi bombers, and more T-72 tanks.

The paper published what appears to be an almost verbatim stenographic report of the talks in its latest edition. The report asserts that the Moscow meeting

came after repeated Syrian demands and Soviet postponements, with the Soviet government under Gorbachev displaying some coolness to Damascus.

Three issues came up for discussion with Talas's delegation: arms purchases, Syria's debt for previous weapons supplies and the Middle East political situation.

Moscow reportedly reaffirmed its commitment to preserve Syria's security vis-a-vis Israel, under the Treaty of Friendship between the two countries, so there was really no need for new weapons in the light of Syria's grim economic situation.

In reply, the Syrians pointed out that the Soviets had already supplied Iraq with the advanced weapons systems they were requesting, to which the Russians retorted: "The conditions there are different".

When the discussion turned to the Syrian debt for military purchases, some $16.5b., the Soviets insisted that the debt be paid according to the agreed timetable, but said Syria could increase her exports to the Soviet Union to help wipe out the debt. However, the Lebanese weekly reports, Moscow did not refrain from reminding the Syrians that Damascus had made purchases in the West and paid in hard currency, to the tune of 9.5 billion Syrian pounds. The Syrians were asked to act likewise towards the USSR.

The talks then moved to the Middle East, with the Soviets stressing their policy of maintaining detente, strengthening peace, and cooperating with the U.S., China and Europe to find solutions to regional conflicts, including those in the Middle East. They also advanced arguments about positive aspects in the PLO's policy, calling on the Syrians to reduce their opposition to the Palestinian organization.

The AL-MUHARRAR report maintains the Soviets promised the Syrians that the future of the Golan Heights would head the agenda of any peace talks.

At the same time, they urged Syria to improve relations with Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO, and to conduct a realistic policy in Lebanon of openness to all sides in resolving the dispute over the election of a new president there.

The talks contained some reciprocal barbs; the Soviets raised the Syrian criticism of Gorbachev's policies, while the Syrians remarked on the improved Soviet relations with Israel and the increased emigration of Soviet Jews. Here, the Soviets responded that these secondary aspects were actually to Syria's benefit, creating deterrent capabilities against Israel and preventing her from engaging "in the folly of a new war."

The conclusion in the Lebanese dispatch is that the Soviet-Syrian talks were mainly just that—discussions with no agreement reached in military or political relations, for which a Soviet-Syrian summit meeting was needed—and this is expected to take place soon, with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad going to Moscow for a more decisive round of talks.

Abu Sharif: PLO Seeks State on 1967 Borders

TA1212122488 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Dec 88 pp 1, 11

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] "'Arafat's speech tomorrow will be a historic one. I hope contacts with the Americans and a serious political process will start immediately after the speech," Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, stated yesterday in an exclusive telephone interview with the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent.

Abu Sharif added: "I am prepared to leave for Washington at once in order to prove that we want peace. I appeal to Israel's leaders to act wisely, because the occupation will not go on forever and is bound to end soon."

Abu Sharif was contacted in London where he held the first meeting in a long time between a senior PLO representative and a British political official. Abu Sharif was careful not to reveal the contents of tomorrow's 'Arafat speech, but said he hopes an accelerated political process with the participation of the Americans will start in the wake of the speech.

In the course of the interview, Abu Sharif reiterated the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist as a state, specifically mentioning Israel by name—a new phenomenon among PLO leaders. Abu Sharif explained what had not been mentioned in the latest PNC session: that the borders of the state sought by the PLO are the 1967 borders. Our correspondent has learned that Abu Sharif is the man who has been conducting the secret contacts between the PLO and the United States, and he will soon be allowed to enter the United States and appear at a public event in Washington.

[Mahanaymi] Will we once and for all hear clear statements from 'Arafat in Geneva tomorrow?

[Abu Sharif] Yasir 'Arafat will speak clearly, not vaguely. 'Arafat will explain to the entire world the significance of the historic resolutions passed by the PNC in Algiers, the gist of which is that the PLO accepts the UN resolutions—meaning, the right of the State of Israel and the Palestinian state to exist alongside each other.

[Mahanaymi] What will be the borders of the Palestinian state?

[Abu Sharif] One must understand that we accepted the principle of UN Resolution 181 (on the partition) rather than its specifics. The borders we want are those of 1967. That much should be clear, seeing that we accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which talk about a withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

[Mahanaymi] What do you expect from the United States?

[Abu Sharif] We expect the United States to ascertain whether Israel accepts UN Resolution 242. We hope the United States will treat the Middle East conflict as well as the two main rivals—Israel and the PLO—fairly. We have good reason to believe that this will indeed be the case. This is inevitable, both due to the detente between the superpowers and the rights of the Palestinians arising from the intifada [uprising].

[Mahanaymi] What will be the basis for the negotiations you expect will start after 'Arafat's speech?

[Abu Sharif] The basis will be UN Resolutions 242 and 338, the resolutions pertaining to the Palestine problem and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. The purpose is to establish a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel, after receiving international guarantees for the security of the sides.

Terrorism Adviser on 'Arafat, UN Debate

TA1212115988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The prime minister's special adviser on terrorism, Yig'al Karmon, says the PLO remains a terror organization, and Yasir 'Arafat has personally ordered numerous terror attacks, both in Israel and abroad. Karmon was speaking this morning at a press conference in Jerusalem called on the eve of the UN General Assembly debate in Geneva on Palestine. Mark Weiss reports:

The prime minister's special adviser on terror stressed that despite statements to the contrary, there has been no letup in acts of terror carried out by Fatah, many of them ordered directly by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. These include katyusha shelling of northern Israeli settlements, the dispatch of terrorist squads to penetrate Israeli borders, the torture and murder of two Israeli seamen in Barcelona, and 'Arafat's personal and direct responsibility for the murder of the U.S. ambassador to Sudan.

Karmon said that Israel must make these facts known to the world in the wake of tomorrow's UN General Assembly debate on Palestine at Geneva. He said that despite the increased publicity the PLO gains from the move to Geneva, it was still not a mistake for the U.S. to deny an entry visa for 'Arafat to address the UN in New York.

[Begin Karmon recording] Mr Shultz rightly took the right moral and political decision, although I must say that 'Arafat would not lack publicity nor propaganda elsewhere, even in the United Nations. The main thing is to take the right moral and political decision. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Protest Issued on Greek Move To Expel 'Terrorist'

TA0912182688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has strongly protested the Greek Government's decision to expel the Arab 'Usamah al-Zumar to Libya in contravention of the Greek Supreme Court's ruling that the terrorist should be extradited to Italy. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the protest was delivered by Yesha'yahu 'Anug, the assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, to the Greek charge d'affaires in Israel. Al-Zamur planted a bomb in a Rome synagogue 6 years ago. The explosion left a 2-year old child dead. Al-Zamur fled, but was later captured in northern Greece carrying a large quantity of explosives.

Reportage on Rescue Aid to Armenian Quake Victims

Rescue Team Sent to Yerevan

TA1112061888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpt] An Israeli Boeing 707 plane will land in the Armenian capital of Yerevan in just under an hour. On board are medical supplies and a 40-member civil defense rescue team which will work to save the victims of last week's earthquake. The Israeli team is just one of many from around the world that have flown to Armenia to help rescue efforts. Mark Weiss reports:

The Air Force Boeing left Israel at 0400 [0200 GMT] this morning packed with 18 tons of medical supplies and rescue equipment. The 40 members of the civil defense rescue team include doctors and medics, and is headed by the head of the IDF Civil Defense Corps, Brigadier Aharon Vardi. The Israeli rescue team is experienced, having worked at the Mexican earthquake in 1985 and the disasters in Tyre, Lebanon in 1982 and 1983. Also with the Israeli crew is a special dog trained to sniff out people trapped under rubble. It is not known how long the Israelis will stay in Armenia, and it is possible that more Israeli help will be flown to the area if needed.

The Israeli Air Force plane was last night given special permission by Turkish authorities to fly in Turkish air space on its way to Armenia. [passage omitted]

2 More Planes, 50 People Sent

TA1212071788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Another two Air Force planes left Israel today for Armenia with 50 people and a large quantity of equipment. The delegation is headed by the deputy chief

medical officer, five Magen David Adom emergency service personnel, and five doctors from Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, including the head of the department that treats trauma victims.

2d Team Returns To 'Reorganize'

TA1212100488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The two Air Force Hercules aircraft, which took off for Armenia this morning, returned to Israel a short time ago with all the people and equipment aboard and without landing in the USSR. In view of a report by the head of the first delegation, Brigadier General Aharon Vardi, the civil defense chief, it appears that the location to which the Israelis were sent has no need for medical assistance.

After receiving the report it was decided to return the medical team to Israel and reorganize it so that it can return to Armenia and operate independently in a different location. Gen Vardi also reported that the first Israeli delegation is functioning and has already rescued people from the ruins in the town of Leninakan.

Over 30 units of blood for the Armenian earthquake victims were donated this morning at the Magen David Adom Emergency Services Blood Bank in Jerusalem. During the day, some 100 donors belonging to the Armenian sect in Israel are due to donate blood. Some 50 donors came yesterday after the public was asked to donate blood.

USSR Envoy Comments on Aid

TA1212073988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Israel's aid to the USSR will bring the two peoples closer together, Georgiy Martirosov, of the USSR consular delegation in Israel, told our correspondent Dan Eshel.

[Begin recording] [Martirosov—in English] We are grateful to the Israeli citizens for proposing—and who are proposing, as I understand—to send help. There were many calls....

[Eshel—translates and continues] Martirosov said the USSR is very grateful to Israeli citizens who propose sending help and who send help. He said many of the offers of assistance came from Soviet Jews living here, mostly doctors and nurses who are offering to leave for Armenia. We asked Martirosov if the cooperation between the two countries will bring them closer and whether he believes it will lead to a resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR.

[Martirosov—in English] This help proposed by the Israeli people will bring us closer emotionally because we must understand that any help proposed by one man to another human being when the latter is in such a difficult and tragic circumstances is of course highly appreciated. I think that it will bring a positive atmosphere in the feelings and the understandings....

[Eshel—translates and continues] Martirosov said he does not want to mix political and humanitarian issues. He said it is preferable to start with humanitarian issues, after which it may be possible to refer to a positive influence in the political field. [end recording]

2 'Terrorists' Killed in South Lebanon Clash

TA1212104688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Two terrorists were killed last night in a clash with an IDF force in the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our forces suffered no casualties. Here are further details by Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north:

The clash occurred south of Al-Baradish in the central sector of the security zone. In the clash between the terrorist squad and the IDF, two terrorists were killed. Kalashnikov assault rifles, an RPG launcher, ammunition, grenades, and war rations were found in their possession. It is possible that the terrorists were planning to carry out an attack in the security zone. This is the third clash between IDF soldiers and terrorist squads in that area in the past 2 weeks.

2 UNIFIL Soldiers Wounded in Lebanon

TA1212060388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Two Norwegian soldiers serving with UNIFIL in south Lebanon have been seriously wounded when their jeep ran over a mine. A Voice of Israel reporter says that Norwegian soldiers who arrived at the scene worked for several hours to extricate their wounded companions from the minefield.

Incidents Reported on Anniversary of 'Uprising'

TA0912194888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Today is the anniversary of the uprising in the territories. It passed relatively quietly in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. A general strike was called and reinforced army units patrolled the city centers and the main highways. Some Druze villagers on the Golan Heights heeded the call in leaflets to mark the anniversary. Most students failed to report to school today, and a partial commercial strike was held in some villages. [passage omitted]

In Judaea and Samaria a Molotov cocktail was hurled at a military vehicle traveling from Tulkarm to the village of Irtah. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The IDF launched searches in the area. The general strike was strictly observed throughout Judaea and Samaria today. Our correspondent Elisha' Spiegelman

reports that public transportation was also idle. Three residents of the Nabulus area were hurt in clashes with IDF soldiers. The IDF imposed a blockade on Judaea and Samaria towns, and a curfew on Kafr Ni'mah in the Ramallah District. Large numbers of forces were deployed along the main highway junctions and around mosques. The IDF initiated operations in dozens of villages in Judaea and Samaria.

In East Jerusalem the Friday prayers in the mosques ended in the afternoon. No outstanding events were recorded. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that this afternoon tires were set on fire in several locations, and roads in the village of Silwan were blocked. The police restored order with the use of tear gas. Our correspondent reports that early this morning five cars parked on Ha'etzel Street in the French Hill neighborhood of Jerusalem were burned. A PLO flag was found nearby, with an inscriptions in Hebrew: 1 Year of the Intifada, and: 21 Years of the PFLP. Our police affairs correspondent points out that only 2 days ago another car was burned in that neighborhood, which is adjacent to the village of 'Isawiyah.

Last night at least 6 Molotov cocktails were thrown at the police's Southern District headquarters on Jericho Road and at a Border Police unit in the Qidron Valley. No one was hurt.

2 Killed; 2 Soldiers Wounded

TA1012130288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Two men were killed today in the Gaza Strip. A detainee in a detention facility in town was shot and killed while attempting to attack a soldier, and a 16-year-old youth was shot while throwing a firebomb. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports:

During the morning walk of the detainees in the Gaza detention facility, one of the detainees struck at one of the soldiers on duty. The detainee drew a knife and attempted to stab the soldier and even snatch away his weapon. The soldier struggled with him. Several shots were fired at the assailant and he was killed. His body was taken to the forensic institute. One of the soldiers in the detention center was slightly wounded. He was hospitalized for treatment.

This morning a local youth was killed in one of Gaza's streets after he and his friends threw several firebombs at an IDF patrol. One of the firebombs slightly wounded a soldier of the patrol. The patrol commander fired at the firebomb throwers, killing the 16-year-old. His body was also taken to the forensic institute.

The general curfew clamped on the Gaza Strip on Thursday evening was lifted this morning from many of the Gaza Strip neighborhoods. They were reopened for traffic and media coverage. All of the refugee camps remain under curfew until further notice.

Mexico Reports Nir's Death Not Result of Sabotage

TA1012075588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Dec 88 p A2

[Report by New York based correspondent Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpt] The official report of the investigation conducted by the Mexican authorities concerning the circumstances of 'Amiram Nir's death states that the plane was not sabotaged, and that Nir and the pilot died when the plane crashed into a big rock after an emergency landing because of engine failure. The results of the investigation were presented yesterday to the Israeli Embassy in Mexico. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Views 'Uprising,' Palestinian State

JN0912192888 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has described the Palestinian Arab people's uprising as a phenomenon that showed a degree of awareness, adherence to right, and a determination to confront the conditions in which these people live. Neither the Palestinian people nor the world can continue to accept these conditions, his majesty said.

In an interview carried within a special program on the uprising, broadcast by the BBC this evening, his majesty added: There are many reasons behind the uprising. They include the practices which the Palestinian Arab people had to endure. These people did not lose their determination to live as Arab people on their land and soil. Through this stance, they have directed to the world a call of justice. At the same time, they drew the world's attention to their just cause, which must be treated and quickly resolved if this region is to become stable.

His majesty also said: Conflict in this important part of the world and in this important spot with its oil resources and position is more dangerous than all other issues. It does not only threaten the people in the region, but also threatens world peace. It is unreasonable that this issue is left without treatment through an international conference with the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing.

Regarding the disengagement of legal and administrative relationships with the West Bank, his majesty said: We only responded to the desire of the Palestinian people, who choose one day to join us in a unity and have lately chosen to head toward establishing their independent state on their national soil and concentrate on their identity and character. We have blessed this and responded in the first stages, and we will respond now. However, under no circumstances will we abandon them or abandon our duty toward them until they regain all their rights on their national soil.

Regarding confederation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the state of Palestine, his majesty said: When we used to discuss confederation in the past, we wanted it as a means to make the PLO take its natural position in the international conference. Because of the disengagement on the one hand, and the recent resolutions on the other, the picture has changed. Now, we are presenting the subject with all its details: How will relations be in the future?

I believe that they will be stronger than ever before because the relationship between the Jordanian Arab people and the Palestinian Arab people is a distinguished one, particularly as we hope to see in the near future the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil. Then, if this was the desire of our brothers, confederation is one of the objectives which we may be able to achieve at a later stage. People will then be able to decide what they want.

In conclusion, his majesty said: Through their steadfastness, tenacity, genuineness, Arabism, and struggle in the sacrifices, which they made, and are still making, the Palestinian Arab people have shaken the world's conscience. We hope that the results will be good, God willing.

King Husayn, Delegation Leave for France 12 Dec

JN1212124288 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today for Paris on a 3-day official visit to France at the invitation extended to his majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur by French President Francois Mitterrand and his wife. His majesty the king will hold talks with the French president and with Prime Minister Michel Rocard and senior officials on current international issues and bilateral relations.

This visit comes in the framework of contacts and consultations by his majesty the king with European leaders on the Middle East crisis and the role of the European Community in the peace process in the area.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and members of the Royal Hashemite family as well as senior government officials, high-ranking military officers, and the French charge d'affaires in Amman.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in early today as regent during his majesty's absence abroad.

His majesty the king is accompanied on his visit to France by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim.

Prince Hasan on Implementing Resolutions 242, 338

JN1112094088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has urged the United Nations Security Council to find a mechanism to "operationalise" Resolutions 242 and 338 towards achieving a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The crown prince said the Arab side and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "must ask in very direct terms" for an accounting of the Security Council's implementation of the withdrawal Resolution (242) and Resolution (338) calling for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In a recent interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Prince Hasan said the fate of the proposed conference was "dependent on what Security Council members have to say today, twenty years after 242, on how they see an implementation of these resolutions.

"It is all very well for Security Council government officials to say we need a clear acceptance of 242 and 338, but it is also the right of Palestinians to ask what does that clear acceptance entail in terms of the responsibilities of the Security Council."

Prince Hasan warned against a continuous emphasis by the Israeli and international media on the need to find "alternative interlocutors in the context of the occupied territories."

He said such an emphasis was designed to "dilute the thrust of the Palestinian uprising from that of achieving an end to the Israeli occupation into some form of a discussion between the Israeli body politic and sectors of Palestinian opinion." He noted that such an approach would force most Palestinians to adopt extremist positions.

He maintained that there was a conviction among Israelis and Palestinians alike that "there has to be some form of a U.N. lid on the potential of further violence in the region."

Furthermore, he warned that Israel may seek to exploit regional conflicts to serve as suitable diversions from what happens in the occupied territories. He cited provocative Israeli acts in Lebanon as an example.

Asked about Jordan's relations with the PLO, the crown prince said that as these relations develop, it was very important to bear in mind that the Kingdom's decision to disengage from the West Bank "was basically taken to put the Palestinian issue once again at the front burner." He stressed that Jordan's regional role was not diminished because of the disengagement and that the focus was now on the Security Council to activate the peace process.

"The international community should understand that Jordan is still a pivotal country in terms of the concept of stability," he explained, pointing out Jordan's demographic role as "a window on the occupied West Bank."

Asked about a possible Israeli mass eviction of Palestinians from the occupied territories to Jordan, the prince said that transposing the Palestinian population and sending it elsewhere has not worked in the past in the context of 1948 Palestine.

"There is still a sizeable demographic problem which is not part of the Israeli body politic. The problem (for Israel) is likely to continue to grow."

Asked whether Jordanians should expect parliamentary elections in 1989, the crown prince replied affirmatively and said the Ministry of Interior was preparing the electoral law and related regulations. He pointed out that Jordan was "committed to constitutional monarchy," and that "there has not been an objection to elections as such."

Referring to recent economic measures adopted by the government, Prince Hasan said he looked at these measures "in the context of coming of age of the Jordanian economy.

"We moved from the traditional role of a big-brother central government which is activating the economy through government tenders and emphasising service into a wider concept of public participation."

"The whole tone of discussion has changed," he said. "It's no longer one of petitioning the central government for projects. There is a maturing of the process where productive sectors are being emphasised. The reasons for the current measures include this process of coming of age, a process of sectoral adjustment."

He added: "I believe strongly that we have the means to make full use of the emphasis on export potential."

Asked whether he agreed that the Kingdom was living beyond its means, he said: "if you look objectively at what we have spent on infrastructure for development purposes by comparison with any developing country in the region, whether oil-producing or non-oil producing... I would be happy to say there had been very little waste."

"If we look at our construction of major projects," he added, "again I think that our track record proves a great degree of efficiency."

He said it was "unfair to blame the economic management for external factors."

"Jordanians have not faced economic hardship over the last three decades," he said. "The devaluation of the dinar was something of a sacred cow, because, effectively, the Jordan dinar has never been devalued. So the very shock of the first-time devaluation and managed float in itself was a shock to the psyche. But if we look from the forties, we see that every currency in the region has faced enormous fluctuations."

The crown prince said, however, "I agree that we have to stabilise the dinar at some stage and I believe this is coming."

In his reference to external factors affecting the Jordanian economy, the prince said it was obvious that a significant sum of money in Jordanian dinars had been hoarded in the West Bank over 20 years of Israeli occupation. He said the savings in the West Bank were estimated at between JD 250 and JD 300 million.

"If you consider the last year of the intifada, it is obvious that people only survived on available money in the mattress, and in bringing the money out of the mattress, one sees obviously an advantage for the (Israeli) shekel and a dehoarding process and a flight from Jordan dinar in different currencies through international dealers to different destinations."

The crown prince said the flight from the diner in the West Bank combined with a sense of uncertainty after the disengagement measures. He affirmed that in the Jordanian-Palestinian context, "His Majesty has assured people that if these measures are politically justified, it does not mean that it is aimed at the fibre of the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians, either in the context of Jordanian pluralism or in the context of East-West Bank relations. So I think a lot of mischief has been made out of that particular aspect of it."

He said that "the other side of the story is defence expenditure."

He referred to Jordan's plan to purchase eight Tornado fighter jets for $500 million, pointing out that in the context of the banking community, this spending is lumped together with borrowing for development purposes, thus putting further strains on the budget.

AFP Interviews Prime Minister al-Rifa'i 11 Dec

JN1212085388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Dec 88 pp 1, 14

["Text" of an AFP interview with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, "transmitted last night"—place not given]

[Text] Question: His Majesty King Husayn is scheduled to begin an official visit to the French capital today, Monday. Does this visit have specific aims?

Answer: His Majesty King Husayn's contacts with the European states is a continuous process. His majesty visited Britain last week and met with Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Now he will go to France and meet with President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Michel Rocard, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, and Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement. Relations between Jordan and France are, of course, excellent and advanced. While we are in France, we will sign an economic cooperation agreement.

According to this agreement, a ministerial committee from the two governments will be formed to supervise all aspects of joint activities. The visit is part of the continuous consultations on the Middle East crisis, the Palestine question, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the French and European role which we consider basic to advance the peace process.

Question: Do you now expect a more active European role in holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East?

Answer: The European role has always been basic and we hope that this role will find a formula acceptable particularly to the United States under the new administration, and, naturally, to the Soviet Union.

We realize that any serious move to convene an international conference requires U.S.-Soviet agreement. Nevertheless, the European role remains basic in terms of seeking to bring views closer and reaching a joint background for an international movement toward the international conference.

Question: PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will deliver an important speech on the Palestine question in Geneva tomorrow, Tuesday. Are there any signs of a change in the wording of his speech following U.S. refusal to grant him an entry visa? Has he coordinated with Jordan accordingly?

Answer: Yasir 'Arafat was on a visit to Jordan when the U.S. secretary of state decided to reject his entry visa request. We naturally discussed this with 'Arafat. We have the impression that 'Arafat fully realizes that the decision was made by Shultz alone and perhaps it had personal considerations and dimensions.

We do not believe that Shultz' position reflects the new U.S. Administration's position or that it places any responsibility on the new Administration. Therefore, the denial of his entry visa to address the United Nations has not influenced his position. Perhaps this is for his own good.

It is enough for 'Arafat, the PLO, and the Palestine question that 154 states voted in favor of moving the debate to Geneva in order to hear the PLO chairman's speech.

Question: Are there signs that the stand of the new U.S. Administration on the Palestine question will be more positive?

Answer: The stand of the U.S. Administration is based on the so-called terms of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger which stipulate that the PLO should recognize Israel's right to exist, accept the convening of an international peace conference on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, and renounce terrorism.

We believe that the PNC met these U.S. conditions, and thus there is no reason for the United States not to recognize the PLO and embark on a dialogue with it.

The present U.S. Administration decided that what the PNC announced is insufficient. We hope that the new U.S. Administration will embark on a dialogue with the PLO as a necessary and preparatory step for convening the international conference.

Question: How do you assess Jordan's relationship with the PLO in the wake of the disengagement with the occupied West Bank?

Answer: Relations are excellent and at their best. There is a brotherly and constructive dialogue between us that is based on what might serve the Palestine question. We and the brothers in the PLO feel that our relations are very comfortable. Sensitivities and doubts have vanished and we are now dealing with each other as brothers out of mutual confidence.

Question: Some say the PLO drew its funds from Jordan and encouraged some Palestinians to draw their money in the wake of the disengagement, thus, affecting the financial situation in Jordan.

Answer: These rumors are baseless. When a person examines these reports he will find out that they are lies because they are based on a theory that does not exist in the first place.

The PLO did not have any funds in Jordan to draw from. Even if it has any money this belongs to individuals. And each person has a right to draw his money from banks. This will not affect the financial situation in the Kingdom, and inevitably will not affect the Central Bank's assets from the foreign currencies.

And the rumor that the Palestinians transferred their money outside the Kingdom is also ridiculous. Citizens in Jordan are Jordanian citizens, and it is absurd to say that the origin of a citizen makes him decide to transfer his savings outside his country.

As I mentioned at the beginning, the whole thing is fabricated. Hostile foreign parties might have disseminated these fabricated news in an attempt to give political reasons for the financial difficulties that faced Jordan. These difficulties have categorically nothing to do with any political stands or decisions.

Question: How is the economic situation in Jordan now in the wake of the financial and monetary measures and decisions adopted by the government?

Answer: The financial problem that we faced is simply attributed to Jordan's dependence on Arab aid for serving its external debts that accumulated over the years. This aid is provided for by the Baghdad summit conference. Jordan's external debts are less than the total Arab aid which we we were promised but have not received.

Consequently, the Jordanian Government, with its keen interest to maintain its credibility in dealing with all states and world and Arab financial institutions, has resorted to settling its foreign debt service from its own resources and reserves. This situation has led to a shortage in the foreign currency available.

Therefore, we have adopted a series of financial and monetary measures to increase the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and minimize their use. In other words, we adopted measures to reduce the deficit in the balance of trade and payments. The situation is much better and is now tending to stabilize.

Naturally, positive results would come up gradually within a few months. However, the beginning was sound and in the right direction. The success of these economic policies is attributed to the response of the various sectors in the Kingdom.

Question: Is Jordan embarking on endeavors to clear the atmosphere between Syria and Egypt?

Answer: King Husayn is always keen to have inter-Arab relations as they should be. His majesty's efforts to reinforce Arab solidarity, close ranks, and overcome differences have not stopped. His majesty will continue efforts with all Arab brothers to remove any impurities in relations between any two Arab countries.

Question: Do you expect the convening of an Arab summit soon and has Egypt's return to the Arab League become a guaranteed matter?

Answer: No date has been set for such a summit meeting. And if a summit were to be convened then the restoration of Egypt would be one of the major topics on its agenda.

Question: His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly discussed the need to build an economic Arab integration. Is there a proposed Jordanian project to this effect?

Answer: There is a Jordanian perception and trend toward such a project. It is natural to have an economic integration among a group of Arab countries. We hope that this integration will include all Arab countries at the end.

However, there are no details of such a project but the important thing was to have this project endorsed. The concerned Arab countries support and bless King Husayn's proposal.

Government Sends Supplies to Earthquake Victims

JN1212074788 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan Sunday sent a planeload of medicine and relief supplies to the Soviet Union to help victims of last Wednesday's earthquake which killed tens of thousands of people in Soviet Armenia and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

The supplies, sent aboard a Royal Jordanian Air Force plane, was dispatched upon the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn in response to a call by the Soviet Red Cross for international help for the quake victims, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said quoting an official statement.

The statement said the supplies were a gift from the Jordanian people to the friendly Soviet Union and a reflection of the Jordanian people's solidarity with and sympathy for the Soviet people over the disaster.

Later in the day, the King received Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksandr Zinchuk, who conveyed to him the thanks of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet poeple for the Jordanian help as well as for a message of condolences the King sent to the Soviet Union following the quake. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y Praises King's Efforts To Unite Arabs

JN1112090488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
11 Dec 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Jordan Will Honor the Pledge"]

[Text] In King Husayn's speech broadcast by the BBC recently, his majesty affirmed that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is distinguished and special, especially since Jordan, under all circumstances, has and will not abandon the sons of Palestine or its duty toward them until they regain their full rights on their national soil.

This speech came as an expression of the continuous support for the uprising as it enters its second year. It also came to defend its legitimacy and call for world conscience to translate its sympathy with the uprising into action which will speed up holding the international conference to enable implementation of the true solution that will restore peace and stability in the region.

King Husayn sought to warn anew that the dispute in the region threatens not only the region, but world peace. His majesty had previously warned of the same danger in interviews he gave to a number of newspapers, radio stations, and international television networks.

Needless to say, all this is an expression of the pan-Arab commitment which Jordan adheres to and which is embodied through clearing the Arab atmosphere and serious action toward rallying Arab efforts.

This action was clarified through the efforts of King Husayn to establish an Arab entity which would launch the eastern front and give the Arabs the chance to practice the appropriate options to retrieve their rights and establish just and comprehensive peace in their region.

Therefore, the king's support for the uprising enters a new stage represented by rehabilitating Arab self-potential to act as a support for the uprising, thus giving it a new dimension. Therefore, the king has presented the uprising, as it enters its 2nd year, with a special effort in this direction.

The time has come for Arab support for the uprising to reach the new desired level. This is the level which Jordan aspires to achieve and works toward in order to build an Arab reality qualified to face the challenges in the path of establishing the pan-Arab entity that the king is calling for.

Jordan which was, and still is, the fortress of steadfastness, aims, as usual, to be in the forefront of developing Arab performance. This is the action which goes beyond emotions to a stage of actual giving.

PSP Issues Statement on 9 Dec Israeli Raids

NC0912141188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1255 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] We have just received a report that a PSP security source issued the following statement a short time ago:

The Israeli enemy launched a military attack on the area of Al-Na'imah and its hills. The enemy landed forces in the area, backed by helicopters which carried out a military combing operation supported by naval warships off the Khaldah coast. PSP forces, the Popular Liberation Army, the PFLP-GC forces, and the Syrian Army were present in the areas around the battlefield. Violent clashes took place during which the nationalist resistance forces confronted the enemy forces.

This prompted the enemy forces to expand their operations in the area, bringing in fresh reinforcements and staging successive air raids. The battles involved positions in Al-Shahhar al-Gharbi and Al-Damur. The Israeli enemy shelled the civilian positions around the operations theater up to Al-Shuwayfat.

The heroic national resistance made the enemy wage a battle that continued from 0230 to 1100 today, after which the enemy was compelled to withdraw. The resistance fighters killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers. Helicopters were seen transporting the bodies and the wounded.

In this confrontation, PSP members Nadim 'Arbid, Rabi' Khaddaj, Fadi Abu Shaqra, and Fu'ad Ghusun were wounded. A PSP antiaircraft gun emplacement was also destroyed. Five civilians were martyred.

The PSP salutes the heroic fighters in the ranks of the PSP, the Palestinian resistance, and the Syrian Army, who have courageously and efficiently confronted the Israeli enemy.

Israeli Prisoners Reportedly Killed in Evacuation

JN0912121688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1201 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following:

Military Communique No 12, issued by the PFLP-GC

The Zionist enemy forces carried out large-scale landing operations north, east, and south of the Al-Na'imah area in an attempt to besiege our valiant forces which have been confronting the Zionist enemy forces with great valor for 10 hours. The enemy used helicopters, warships, and gunboats to break the siege clamped on its soldiers who were captured by our hero comrades. The Zionist enemy attempts led to the killing of a number of the Zionist prisoners during their evacuation as a result of the extensive and violent clashes between our valiant forces and the forces of the Zionist enemy, whose officers and soldiers sustained heavy losses.

We will furnish you with new developments.

Junblatt Inspects Battle Zone, Urges Vigilance

NC0912180988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] This afternoon PSP leader Walid Junblatt visited the scene of today's battle. He was accompanied by Brigadier General Muhsin Sallum of the Syrian Arab Forces Command. Junblatt inspected the situation of our fighters in the Al-Na'imah area and was briefed on the outcome of the confrontation with the enemy. He called for greater vigilance and readiness to confront the Zionist enemy's schemes.

For his part, Brig Gen Sallun praised our fighters for their bravery in standing fast in the face of the enemy.

Jibril: 'Scores' of IDF Troops Killed or Wounded

NC1012075988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril has declared that his fighters killed or wounded scores of Israeli soldiers during the ferocious fighting against the Israeli invaders yesterday. Jibril denied previous reports that Zionist soldiers had been captured by members of the front.

At a news conference held at the headquarters which Israel claimed was destroyed during the operation, Jibril emphasized: The enemy failed to storm our positions. We have inflicted grave losses on the enemy ranks. We are certain that scores of Zionists were either killed or wounded. You can see for yourselves the extent of the enemy's losses from the vast amount of blood which can still be observed at the scene. Furthermore, the enemy's admission that the operation's commander Colonel Amir had been killed is an indication of the massive losses sustained by the enemy. The enemy has left behind quantitites of weapons and hardware.

Jibril was asked whether, in his opinion, the Israeli operation was intended to bring pressure to bear on him to make him accept an independent Palestinian state. Jibril replied: There is no doubt that every Israeli military action has its own political background. They believe that there are Palestinian factions which will continue the fighting and will not abide by the Cairo Declaration made by 'Arafat and Husni Mubarak on the cessation of military operations outside Palestine.

Jibril added: We want to give them an unforgettable lesson. I believe that the operation was mainly timed to avenge the heroic operation in Qibya a year ago, which was one of the factors that sparked off the uprising in the occupied territories.

Asked about the number of Zionist prisoners, Jibril said: So far we have no idea whether we have any prisoners.

Asked to comment on reports by several fighters that they had captured 18 Zionists, Jibril said: This is not true. You must take my word for it that we have no answer to this question. However, we will clarify this point once we become sure. He added: You can see the bodies of their dead and their weapons littering the battlefield. You can also see the radio equipment left behind by the Israeli commander.

Kan'an Reports Syrian Forces 'Did Not Intervene'

NC0912151988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Acute tension continues to prevail in the Al-Damur, Al-Na'imah, Bi'wirta, and Bshamun areas in the wake of the Israeli operations earlier today.

Meanwhile, Syrian occupation intelligence Chief Ghazi Kan'an has denied that the Syrian forces have captured any Israeli soldiers. He disclosed that the Syrians did not intervene during the Israeli operation.

For his part, Palestinian official Ahmad Jibril [PFLP-GC leader] has denied that any Israeli soldiers have been captured.

Syrian 'Source' on 'Limited' Role in Battle

NC1012155888 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] A Syrian military source issued the following statement today:

News agencies have reported a distorted statement by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Security and Intelligence Department of the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon, regarding the participation of the Syrian Arab forces in yesterday's battle. As a matter of fact, what Brig Gen Kan'an said was that the participation of our forces was limited because the nature of the battle did not require more than the effort that was made.

Fatah Provisional Command Mourns Fighter's Death

JN0912200088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 9 Dec

[Text] The Fatah Provisional Command has mourned the martyred hero Lieutenant Muhammad 'Ali Dakhlallah, who was martyred while valiantly confronting the Zionist landing in the Al-Na'imah area. He participated with his brothers there in the 2d Fedayeen Support Battalion in confronting the Zionist aggression against the region side by side with the nationalist Palestinian fighters.

The new Zionist aggression against the bases of the fighting Palestinian revolution comes at the time when the renegade Palestinian clique declares its recognition of the Zionist enemy in order to qualify for participating in the capitulationist settlement negotiations proposed for the Palestinian question. This calls on all nationalist Palestinians to mass their resources to confront and foil this conspiracy.

While mourning the struggling martyr, Fatah Provisional Command renews the pledge to continue in the revolution side by side with all nationalist Palestinians, in alliance with the Lebanese nationalist forces and Syria, until the liberation of all our Palestinian national soil.

Abu 'Ali Mahdi, member of Fatah's Provisional Command, has toured the fighting positions in the Al-Na'imah area, which witnessed heroic battles fought by Fatah's support and Fedayeen units together with their comrades in the PFLP-GC and soldiers of the Syrian Arab Army. Abu 'Ali Mahdi talked to the fighters in their positions. He praised their heroism and sacrifices, which defeated the arrogant neo-Nazis. He referred to the meaning of the enemy's admission of the death of the campaign's commander and a number of his soldiers. He also stressed the need to preserve the state of alert and to be vigilant against any aggression.

PFLP-GC 'Source' Details 'Violent' Battle

JN0912202788 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] A responsible source at the PFLP-GC has stated the following: Our heroic Palestinian people's uprising has entered its 2d year proclaiming its continuation and its challenge to the treacherous Zionist occupation. 'Arafat has announced in Stockholm his renunciation of armed struggle and his recognition of the Zionist entity, thus violating the PLO's principles and charter and forfeiting the Palestinian national rights. In the midst of these events, the Zionist enemy launched large-scale aggression against our military positions in the areas of Al-Na'imah and Al-Damur lasting for 10 continuous hours during which the Zionist enemy employed all of its naval, ground, and air units to support the attacking Zionist commando battalion.

A violent battle took place between our forces and the enemy forces. Hand-to-hand combat took place. The Zionist enemy has been surprised, as it thought that its aggressive operation would be no more than a picnic for the Zionist enemy's army; and this surprise was made possible by the alertness of our heroic comrades, by their great awareness and vigilance during the confrontation with the Zionist enemy, and also by their rich experience in various arts and types of combat.

This compelled the Zionist enemy through its chief of staff to admit that its army has paid a very dear price by the killing of the commander of the attacking Zionist

battalion Colonel [title as heard] Amir Meytal and to say that this operation will have other long-term effects despite the fact that the Zionist units which participated in this operation were from the best Zionist navy units from the special forces Golani Brigade.

It is worth recalling that the Zionist enemy used booby-trapped police dogs in its new aggression—the dogs which were killed and left behind by the Zionist enemy in the battlefield. Besides this, the enemy left behind large amounts of military equipment, not to mention the weapons of its soldiers who were killed and whose blood covered the battlefield.

A number of the Zionist enemy soldiers have been captured. And this made the Zionist Army Command involve additional forces south, west, and east of the combat zone with the aim of extricating its captive prisoners; and this caused the death of more of their soldiers, including the prisoners besieged by our comrades.

This new Zionist act of aggression, which is taking place within the framework of the suspect moves which seek to impose capitulation and submission to the American-Zionist, will confirm the following:

1. The terrorist-fascist mentality characterizes the Zionist entity.

2. The Zionist enemy only understands one language; namely, that of pursuing the armed struggle until the liberation of Palestine.

3. The course of forfeiture pursued and adopted by the conferees of the Palais des Pins recognized Resolution No 242 and relinquished the Palestinian people's rights to establish their independent state on the entire Palestinian national soil.

This will lead to nothing other than the demonstration of further arrogance by the enemy and also to its making demands that further acts of forfeiture and humiliation to those pursuing capitulatory schemes be carried out. The decisions to recognize the Zionist entity are the ones which pave the way for the enemy to go to extremes and to expand its aggression. The language of the armed struggle is the only one capable of confronting the Zionist enemy and the plans of forfeiture.

The Zionist enemy is fully aware that the PFLP-GC and the PNSF, along with other nationalist factions, pose a danger to the Zionist enemy and to the plans which seek to liquidate the Palestine question. Within this context comes its aggressive military operation against our heroic combatants. The enemy deluded itself into believing that its confrontation with our forces would be easy and that it would be able to score some military gains. However, the rifles of our revolutionaries have provided it with tangible proof that our will and principles are neither frail nor weak.

Thus, this has been a revolutionary lesson. The language of stones and bullets has become one. In the face of this abysmal failure inflicted upon the Zionist enemy forces, their allies have found themselves unable to pay tribute to their ally and voiced their condemnation of the operation because of its failure in order to cover up for their involvement and also for their unlimited support for the Nazi Zionist entity.

Our heroic combatants have proven, particularly at this stage, to all those who advocate the pursuit of dialogue and negotiations with the arrogant Zionist enemy that the weapon of force, the creed based on the pursuit of struggle, and the adherence to principles is the way to cut the Zionist enemy down to size.

The heroic feats demonstrated by our heroic comrades resulted in the martyrdom of four of our heroic comrades, including the position commander, and also in wounding one of our heroic comrades, the one who sustained slight wounds. The PFLP-GC and the PNSF affirm the importance of the Palestinian national-Syrian-Lebanese alliance which is facing and confronting the fascist Zionist enemy and foiling its conspiracies until our objective of liberating Palestine—all of Palestine—is achieved. We pledge to the righteous martyrs that we will remain faithful to their blood. We will continue to pursue the course of armed struggle until the liberation of land and man.

UN Envoy To Submit Complaint to Security Council

NC0912122988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has telephoned Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate at the United Nations, and asked him to submit an urgent complaint to the UN Security Council and to call for a council meeting to discuss the continuing Israeli aggressions against Lebanon, the latest of which was the savage aggression against the Al-Na'imah area, Al-Shuf coast, and the surrounding heights.

Soviet Envoy Denounces 9 Dec Israeli Attacks

NC0912133388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha has commented on the Israeli raids, saying: We denounce these raids and attacks against Lebanon, because they further complicate matters and complicate the regional atmosphere in general.

Beirut Airport Resumes Operations

NC0912124288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1225 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Traffic has been resumed at Beirut airport. The airport had been closed during the military operations.

Israeli Reconnaissance Aircraft, Patrols Reported

NC1112115488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] For the 2d day running, an Israeli MK reconnaissance plane flew over Western al-Biqa' today.

Mock Raids Over Sidon, Camps

NC1212121388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Dec 88

[TExt] Israeli enemy warplanes this morning staged mock raids over Sidon and its camps, 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, drawing antiaircraft fire. The raids were accompanied by continuous patrols by the Israeli gunboats off the Lebanese coast.

2 Gunmen Kill Belgian in West Beirut

NC1212120288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1155 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Here is a report from the news desk:

According to reports available to the Voice of Lebanon radio, two gunmen assassinated Belgian national George Arthurian a short while ago. They fired at him in (Jardin) street near the Pepsi Cola building in West Beirut.

The two gunmen were driving an orange Volvo car. The Belgian was fatally wounded in the head. He worked as a teacher at the British council, which is now affiliated with the Al-Maqasid School. He also worked as a teacher at the Al-Rashidiay School. He is married to a Japanese woman and his family is outside Lebanon at present.

Birri, Junblatt Reportedly Seek To Oust Al-Huss

NC1012211988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] According to an exclusive report carried by BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and former Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt held secret meetings in Syria recently. The discussion at these meetings centered on the possible ways to oust Dr Salim al-Huss as head of the Al-Sana'i group [cabinet] and to replace him with Deputy Nabih al-Bizri.

According to available information, the Khaddam-Birri-Junblatt meetings have not achieved any results so far. However, Khaddam asked Birri and Junblatt to look further into the matter at their own initiative and to contact him in Damascus once they have ideas on how to get rid of Al-Huss in a tactful and quiet way.

Al-Huss' opposition to partitionist schemes is the main reason why the Syrian authorities, particularly Khaddam, want the former relieved of his post.

Meanwhile, Al-Huss also has asked Birri to surrender control over the finances of Al-Zahrani refinery to the Al-Sana'i group.

Amal Gunmen Reportedly Kill Hizballah Official

NC1012062688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Security sources in West Beirut have reported that Amal Movement gunmen stormed the house of Hizballah official Shaykh Ahmad Hammud last night and shot him dead.

Amal 'Killers' Identified

NC1012085488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0830 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Amal Movement members stormed the house of Shaykh Hammud Hammud in Al-Qantari [in Beirut's southern suburb] last night in a bid to assassinate him. But when the Amal gunmen found out that Shaykh Hammud was not in the house, they opened fire at his brother Ibrahim Hammud, who was sleeping at the time. He was instantly martyred.

The Amal criminals used two cars in carrying out the crime. Three of the killers were identified as Abu Saddam Bidah, Hasan Salghut, and Hasan Qawhan.

Amal Denies Assassination

NC1012171988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] An Amal Movement security source has denied what he described as false claims that Hizballah groups are trying to spread before public opinion; namely, that Amal assassinated Ahmad Hammud after it had failed to kill Hammud Hammud.

Hizballah Accuses Amal of Assassination

NC1112211188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Efforts to stop the war of words between the Amal Movement and Hizballah have produced no results. A Hizballah security source has accused Amal of assassinating Hizballah member Yusuf 'Ammar in the Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq area [in Beirut]. The source said that three Amal gunmen, including Haydar Ghinai, carried out the killing.

Hizballah has launched a violent campaign against the Amal Movement and its leader Nabih Birri. Hizballah pointed out that the cliques of evil and hypocrisy led by

Nabih Birri have killed two of its members in two consecutive days. The source called on all to deal harshly with Birri before he burns the Shi'ites and all others with the fire of his sedition.

Amal Leader Birri Attacks Hizballah

NC1012091688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has said that the U.S.-Syrian agreement was stillborn. He added: We have not heard anything from Hizballah to the effect that it is against the agreement. On the contrary; they are now talking about rapprochement with the United States.

Birri maintained that what happened in the South was a blow to some turbaned men who said that the fighting among Shi'ites is sanctioned. Birri described Hizballah as real Nazism which distorts Shi'ite history. The world now talks about Shi'ite terrorism, and the word Shi'a has become synonymous with terrorism, he stated, adding that Hizballah has nothing to do with religion.

Iran's Besharati Cited on Hizballah, Hostages

JN1112193088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Dec 88 p 7

[Text] Beirut—AL-ITTIHAD—Prominent Islamic sources have disclosed that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati assured Hizballah during his visit to Beirut Sunday that Damascus does not intend to disarm it. The sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Besharati informed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and the leadership of Hizballah that he received personal assurances from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during their meeting last week that Syria does not intend to disarm Hizballah, especially since the battle between Syria's allies on one side and the Israeli enemy and its agents in Lebanon on the other is still continuing.

The sources quoted Besharati as saying that President al-Asad during the meeting voiced his appreciation for the Islamic resistance led by Hizballah against the Israeli enemy in the south.

On Besharati's talks with the leaders of Hizballah and Amal movement, which aimed at achieving reconciliation between them, the sources said that Besharati informed minister Nabih Birri that Iran does not expect any reconciliation with Amal to be at the expense of its alliance with Hizballah.

The sources said that Besharati stressed during his meeting with Birri the importance of Hizballah returning to southern Lebanon as a prelude to ending the conflict between the two parties.

The sources denied that Besharati endorsed a request by Birri to hold an inquiry into his allegation that the Iranian Embassy is being used as base for Hizballah elements to carry out military operations against Amal.

The sources said that Birri's claim is groundless and is an attempt to distort the relations between Tehran and Hizballah.

Regarding the Western hostages, the same sources said that Amal was behind the hijacking of the U.S. TWA plane on 1985. The sources said that Besharati emphasized to the leaders of Hizballah Tehran's eagerness to work for releasing the Western hostages and achieving a happy ending to this issue.

Museum Crossing Opened to Vehicles, Pedestrians

NC1212103988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] A military source in the Army Command in Al-Yarzah has stated that the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing point in Beirut has been opened today to vehicles and pedestrians only.

Iranian Request To Free Detainees 'Rejected'
JN1112182088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Syria rejected a request from Tehran to release a number of Hizballah detainees held by the Syrian forces. Political sources in Beirut disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati conveyed this request to the Syrian leadership during his visit to Damascus last week.

The Syrian officials stressed to him that all the detainees were involved in the recent violent clashes in [Beirut's] southern suburb and that Damascus cannot release them before completing the investigations to disclose the parties behind those clashes. The sources explained that Damascus has some 350 Hizballah and Amal detainees who took part in the clashes.

Press Views 'Zionist Aggression' Against Lebanon
JN1012070488 Damascus Domestic Servic in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Dec 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Lebanese People Are Capable of Defeating the Aggression," AL-THAWRAH says: The Lebanese nationalist forces, supported by all honest Lebanese forces, are capable of confronting the aggression and aborting the divisionists' plot that emerged under the Israeli reality and grew up at the hands of a Zionist separatist clique which agreed to affiliate itself with the Israeli state.

AL-THAWRAH says: It seems that the Israeli rulers need someone to remind them that any aggression against Lebanese territory will not be a promenade.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Lebanese people, supported by the Arab masses, can defend their territory and homeland, defeat the aggressors, thwart their ambitions, and overthrow the symbols of the divisionist plot.

Under the headline "The Zionist Aggression: Circumstances and Timing," TISHRIN says: We cannot separate the enemy's exportation of terrorism outside the occupied territory from the overall situation and developments in Lebanon that the enemy is trying to arrange in accordance with the Zionist way through the 'Awn-Ja'ja' clique to peddle the divisionist scheme this agent clique is trying to achieve.

TISHRIN adds: Hence, this clique, which seeks strength from Israeli support, sees in the new Zionist aggression a strong sign of the need to proceed with the implementation of its divisionist scheme and continue its destructive practices through the enemy's cover and protection.

CSSR Defense Minister, Delegation Depart
JN0912143888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—CSSR National Defense Minister General Milan Vaclavik and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning.

The guest minister was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Gen 'Ali Aslan and Gen Hasan Turkumani, deputies of the chief of staff; a number of high-ranking officers of the General Command; the CSSR ambassador; the CSSR military attache; and embassy staff in Damascus.

The visiting delegation earlier held a final session of talks with Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. The session was attended by Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces; Gen 'Ali Aslan and Gen Hasan Turkumani; deputies of the chief of staff; a number of officers of the General Command of the Army and the Armed Forces.

The visiting delegation also toured the old markets and historical sites in Damascus. It visited the great Umayyad Mosque, the handicrafts museum, and the National Museum in Damascus.

The CSSR national defense minister voiced great admiration for and happiness with the remarkable development witnessed under the leadership and care of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He expressed best wishes for progress, prosperity, and success for Syria.

Al-Ahmar Receives Palestinian Front Officials
JN1112154688 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1442 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, 11 Dec (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today Rashad Abu Shawar, Yusuf Amin, 'Ali 'Aziz, and Tariq Nimr, members of the Palestinian Liberation Front Political Bureau. Talks dealt with the Palestinian situation and developments in the Arab arena.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Praises Gorbachev Address to UN

LD1012212388 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0630 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, 8 Dec (BAKHTAR)—Last night M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, delivered his historic speech at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central COmmittee, today granted an interview to a BAKHTAR correspondent regarding this important speech. May we draw your attention to this interview:

Question: Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, spoke at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly on international issues including the (?problem) of Afghanistan. Because of its extraordinary importance, the text of his speech will be broadcast tonight on radio and television.

Our compatriots and other people who are interested in Afghan issues are obviously interested in your views about this speech:

Answer: M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, delivered a speech at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. In our view this was an important (?speech) which extensively and broadly covered international issues and highlighted logical approaches in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and the need for adopting a new, just order in international relations.

This speech, which attracted the attention of the world public, is approved by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan—in particular, the central point of the speech on ways to seek accords for resolving present world conflicts and problems, which seriously attracts the interest of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The leaders of various countries have praised the various new proposals of the Soviet Union as new initiatives which open up the prospect of new common activities for humanity.

With a bright and realistic vision of present international issues, including the role of the United Nations in the modern world, M.S. Gorbachev spoke about the economic problems of the developing countries and safeguarding world peace. He presented to the UN General Assembly the new Soviet initiatives in the area of disarmament, and once again showed that the Soviet Union is really searching for a durable and just world peace which secures the interests of all mankind.

Regarding M.S. Gorbachev's proposal on the situation around Afghanistan, it should be said that all the proposals are in full conformity with the thinking and policy of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, as well as the plans and initiatives made earlier within the framework of the policy of national reconciliation, including our recent proposals for the restoration of peace on the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan.

As M.S. Gorbachev stated concerning the violation of the Geneva accords, we must use an accepted principle of general international law: agreements must be kept. Pakistan's violations and blatant transgressions of accords have become a tragic and undeniable reality. We fully agree with the view that if those accords had been observed by Pakistan, the process of resolving the Afghan situation would have been completed before the end of 1988. At the same time M.S. Gorbachev's proposals complement the proposals put forward earlier by the Republic of Afghanistan. For instance, concerning the cease-fire, from the very first day of the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation our first proposal was for a cease-fire and an end to all combat operations, and for the commencement of talks and dialogue. We emphasized the need for cease-fire at the historic 1987 Loya Jirgah and at other official gatherings. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have observed a unilateral cease-fire unless they are attacked by the armed opposition.

A new element in M.S. Gorbachev's proposals is the point that with the implementation of cease-fire the dispatch of weapons to the belligerents must be halted. We are ready to accept this proposal. I must add that our country, Afghanistan, has been transformed into an arsenal, and moreover an arsenal that no longer has the capacity to hold any more explosives. At the same time, I want to point out that those who play with fire around this arsenal must end this dangerous game themselves.

The other new element is the sending of a UN peacekeeping forces to the Republic of Afghanistan to prevent armed clashes. We approve of this. Past experiences in the international arena have shown that UN peacekeeping forces have accomplished their role in various hot spots in the world as an effective means for preventing armed confrontations and for safeguarding peace. UN cooperation and support is very important in the accomplishment of this task. It is also important that the UN peace-keeping forces discharge its role in such a way that the belligerents feel safe and assured by their presence and do not regard their activities as instructions from another capital. We propose that volunteer units from various other countries also join the UN peacekeeping forces to prevent armed confrontation and to bring about a peaceful solution of the situation.

We have always believed that the implementation of a cease-fire and its verification by an authoritative international body will pave the way through dialogue for the estblishment of a broad-based coalition government, preparation for the convocation of a Loya Jerga, and the holding of elections for the purpose of bringing about durable peace in the country.

If the opposition leaders disagree with the concept of sending UN peace-keeping forces, it will be obvious that they are not interested at all in peace and that they regard the continuation of the atmosphere of plunder and bloodshed as a desirable situation for themselves. As far as the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, we are ready to assist and cooperate fully for the implementation of this proposal and to provide suitable conditions for the arrival of such forces.

The convocation of an international conference is the best way to confirm Afghanistan's status as a permanently neutral country and as an effective way to effect demilitarization. In order to bind the wounds of war we favor the proposal regarding the creation of an international peace-keeping contingent under UN supervision for assisting the task of reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Question: Esteemed Najibullah, we hear that some leaders of the seven-party alliance consider as a victory for themselves the Al-Ta'if talks between Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and USSR ambassador and extraordinary representative to the Republic of Afghanistan, and alliance. What is your view on this?

Answer: As I stated during a previous interview, these talks were the result of our previous direct and indirect contacts with the leaders of the seven-party alliance. This took place in a coordinated form through channels of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Soviet Union, a number of other countries, and the United Nations. Therefore, these talks were in no way unexpected to us. They are the logical consequence and fruit of the policy of national reconciliation.

Concerning the question that some opposition leaders may regard their meeting with Yuliy Vorontsov a political victory, I must say that there are two ways to resolve political issues: one is the military way, the use of force, and the other is the political way. Everybody knows that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan wants the problems to be solved peacefully by political means. Particularly following the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, we have repeatedly proposed holding talks with the opposition. However, they always replied with gunfire to our proposal, and they even regarded political solution as treachery to their holy war.

What has happened, now that the opposition is at the negotiating table with the representative of a country against whom they announced holy war, so that they regard such talks as a victory for themselves? The question arises: Why didn't other leaders of the seven-party alliance, such as 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf and Muhammad Yunis Khalis, manage to enjoy this political victory? Don't they want such a victory?

The other question is: Why didn't they agree to send only the chairman of the seven-party alliance to the Al-Ta'if talks? Apart from the the representative of the seven-party alliance, the representatives of other organizations also went to Al-Ta'if. If there were a single policy, then why couldn't the chairman of the seven-party alliance represent this policy? The contradictions and differences between the participants of the seven-party alliance are obvious to us and are clear to all. This is particularly so inasmuch as these contradictions and even armed conflicts on the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan can be seen clearly. You can see the worst bloody fighting and terrible clashes which take place every day between the Islamic Party and the Islamic Society, or between other groups. Are these not examples of irreconcilable conflicts between them? If they are eliminating each other in such a dreadful manner inside the country, it is clear that such differences and animosity exist within the opposition outside the country, too.

As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, we have proposed peace to all. If our opponents reject it, the responsibility will be borne by them. If it is a matter of confrontation and show of force, then, having as we do a united armed forces equipped with most modern combat equipment and with organizational and political unity, we have the power and ability to take decisive action against those who are the enemy of the people's peace. Therefore:

1. In reality, the Al-Ta'if talks are a victory for the policy of national reconciliation which finally dragged the opposition, in spite of their internal differences, to which I referred earlier, to sit at the negotiating table. As a matter of fact, it is our victory that they accepted the path of political solution.

2. The Al-Ta'if talks are the result of the common course and mutual cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR aimed at ensuring peace in Afghanistan. In the preparation of the talks, the United Nations and other countries and personalities also played an effective role.

3. The participation of Yuliy Vorontsov in the talks was in fact not only part of his role as Soviet ambassador and mediator between the Republic of Afghanistan and its opposition; he also represented all those countries who assisted and were interested in the Al-Ta'if talks. It must be said that these activities do not negate the role of the UN secretary general, but rather assist them.

Finally, it must be said that the question of winning and losing does not arise in our view; there is no loser on this noble and humane path. If peace is gained, all those who consider a political solution are the winners.

Najibullah, Politburo Approve Al-Ta'if Talks
LD1112172688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Our compatriots are aware that Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan met with representatives of the seven-party alliance in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, 4-9 December 1988. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that on his return Yuliy Vorontsov presented a detailed report on his meeting with opposition leaders in Al-Ta'if to Afghan President Najibullah. The correspondent adds that esteemed Najibullah held a series of meetings today on the results of the Al-Ta'if talks with the vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan, with Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, and with the deputy prime ministers.

Also, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, presented today a detailed report on the talks between Yuliy Vorontsov and representatives of the seven-party alliance to today's session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. He briefed the Politburo on the talks, the positions of the two sides, and the additional steps to be taken in this direction.

After hearing the report on Yuliy Vorontsov's meeting in Saudi Arabia, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo assessed the results of previous contacts by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union with representatives of the seven-party alliacne and the joint policy and mutual cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union aimed at ending war and bloodshed and ensuring peace in Afghanistan. The Politburo stressed that such meetings are in line with the national reconciliation policy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Politburo also considered the Al-Ta'if meetings an important step toward improving contacts and a transfer from a military policy to a political solution of the situation. The Politburo emphasized that a just and logical solution to the situation can only be achieved through political means. The Politburo assessed positively the Al-Ta'if meetings in accordance with the spirit of the UN resolution on Afghanistan and the desire of the international community, which is interested in achieving pece in Afghanistan.

The Politburo expressed its full and decisive support for the speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which was delivered in the 43d UN General Assembly. It added that the speech reflects the important political, economic, and social issues of today's world, and Gorbachev's specific proposals cover the solution of international issues.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo assessed as constructive the proposals mentioned in Gorbachev's speech in connection with the Afghan issue, and it considers them the only way to resolve the problems concerning Afghanistan.

Najibullah Signs Condolence Book at Soviet Embassy
LD1112070388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 10, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, went today to the USSR Embassy to Afghanistan and wrote his deep sorrow and condolence about the severe earthquake recently occurred in Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic in the special book.

Likewise, 'Abdul Wahid Sarabi, 'Abdul Hamid Muhtat and M. Rafi', vice-presidents of the Republic, Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representative, Nezamuddin Tahzib, supreme judge and other higher ranking officials, some ambassadors and members of corps diplomatic mission in Kabul went to the Soviet Embassy and expressed their condolence in the special book placed at the embassy on this sad occasion.

'Iranian Spy' Captured by Government Troops
BK0912132088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec 9 (AFP)—The Afghan Government announced here Friday that it would release two Turks imprisoned for the past two years on spying charges.

The decision to free Turgut Ozal and Osman Demir, arrested in 1985 and 1986 respectively for allegedly spying on Afghan and Soviet military installations, followed an appeal by the Turkish prime minister, a government spokesman said.

"They have not been freed, but the decision has been taken to release them," the spokesman said.

He said an Iranian spy had been seized by government troops two weeks ago near the Afghan-Iranian border, but gave no details other than saying the accused man would possibly be presented to journalists next week.

2 Turkish Nationals Receive Presidential Pardon
LD1112173788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Two Turkish nationals, Turgut Ozal and Osman Demir, were released from prison today after being pardoned by Afghan President Najibullah. BAKHTAR's reporter states that the two were apprehended by the

country's security forces and charged with illegally entering Afghanistan and committing illegal acts. TIhe two were released this morning at 1130 after Afghan authorities had received a request from authorities and the Red Crescent of Turkey.

The two were handed over to the Turkish charge d'affaires in Kabul. He thanked the Afghan authorities for accepting the Turkish sides' request.

The BAKHTAR reporter adds that Turgut Ozal was arrested on 14 January 1985 and sentenced to 16 years imprisonment, and Osman Demir was arrested on 14 June 1988 and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

Government Aircraft Fire on Qandahar City

LD1012171588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Citing an authoritative Armed Forces source, BAKHTAR's military section reports that aircraft shelled northern areas of Qandahar City on the evening of 8 December. As a result, 24 people were killed, and 8 others were wounded. Nine 9 houses were destroyed, and a number of others were damaged. As a result of the firing on an Armed Forces detachment in Qandahar, eight soldiers and an officer were wounded, and two buildings were damaged.

An authoritative commission has been set up in this connection, the first session of which was held under the chairmanship of Vice President Muhammad Rafi'. The commission resolved that appropriate aid, consisting of cash, medicine, food, clothing, and other essential items should be rendered to the affected people.

A preliminary investigation of the case shows that the incident has an ambiguous and questionable aspect. It reveals that air-defense observation units saw airplanes flying from the east, which were fired upon by heavy machine guns used by the Qandahar corps security posts and units. Because of their experience, the posts knew that Afghan and Soviet military aircraft do not fly at low altitude. A serious investigation continues in this respect. Compatriots will be informed about its findings later.

Death Toll Rises to 44

BK1112121088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 11 (AFP)—The death toll in Thursday's accidental bombing of southern Afghanistan's Qandahar City has risen to 44, resistance sources said Sunday.

Some 44 people including 17 soldiers were killed when Afghan Government forces bombed Qandahar by mistake, hitting civilian areas and military barracks, the sources said, quoting travellers from the second biggest Afghan city.

State-run Radio Kabul in a broadcast monitored here Saturday said the raids were made "by mistake" apparently in response to firing from the ground. It did not say whether the planes involved in the attack were Soviet or Afghan.

According to resistance sources, the attacking aircraft were piloted by Soviets.

Resistance sources confirmed an earlier Radio Kabul report that the aircraft were targetting rebel positions when they bombed two districts in the northern part of the city.

The city streets were deserted as the business community observed a two-day protest strike against attacks on civilian targets, with all shops closed on Friday and Saturday, resistance sources said.

The raid at about 8.00 p.m. (1530 GMT) on Top Khana District [place name as received] killed 27 civilians mostly Shi'ite Muslims, the resistance sources said. In a second attack moments later the planes bombed an army garrison killing 17 troops including officers, they said. They did not give details of the material losses.

Radio Kabul said 24 people were killed and about a dozen houses destroyed. It said the bombs hit military barracks but that only eight troops were injured.

The radio did not report civilian unrest, but said a high-level commission headed by Vice President Muhammed Rafi' had been appointed to probe the incident.

The regime has ordered compensation be paid to those affected and relief work including distribution of medicine, food and other supplies has begun, the broadcast said.

Armed Forces Operations Against 'Extremists' Noted

LD1012180488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, a BIA correspondent reports that Armed Forces units have carried out combat operation in the past 24 hours in a number of the country's provinces for the restoration and consolidation of peace and security, as a result of which heavy losses were inflicted on the subversive extremists.

As a result of yesterday's action carried out in the environs of Nangarhar Province, 52 extremists, including 2 ringleaders, were eliminated, and 21 others were injured. During this action one rocket, two mortars, one DShK, and seven enemy hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, the Armed Forces carried out an operation yesterday in the surroundings of Zarmal district, Paktia Province. Ten extremists were crushed, and 20 others were injured. During this operation one rocket and one weapon and ammunition depot were destroyed.

As a result of an Armed Forces operation in the Kuh-e Safi region of Parvan Province, dozens of the warmongering extremists were injured, and dozens of the enemy's various weapons were destroyed.

The BIA military section added that in the continued fighting between extremist groups, fierce fighting has recently flared between the belligerent parties in Taleqan City, capital of Takhar Province, and in the environs of Pashtun Kowt district, Faryab Province. As a result of this fighting 13 men from both sides, including Muhammadullah a ringleader of the extremists, were killed, and a number were injured.

By organizing an explosion in the vicinity of (Milli Bus) enterprise the criminal extremists have once again exposed their animosity against the peace and calm of our compatriots. The BIA military section reports that elements attached to the extremist groups, supported by Pakistan and the United States, planted explosives in a motor vehicle and detonated them around 0500 this morning in the vicintiy of (Millui Bus), in front of the first microrayon block. As a result of this savage action by the extremists a number of our compatriots were slightly injured by flying glass. After treatment they were discharged from hospital. Buildings near the explosion were slightly damaged.

Rebel Successes Against Regime Reported

BK1012155688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Reports say that mujahidin in Afghanistan launched several attacks on Kabul regime forces in the last few days and destroyed many posts. According to the Afghan news agency, the mujahidin attacked several military posts near Jalalabad on Monday [5 December] and inflicted heavy damage to the Kabul regime forces. The mujahidin ambushed a military convoy en route to Jalalabad at (Tangi Abreshi) in the same region, killing 21 Kabul regime soldiers and destroying 4 tanks and 3 vehicles.

According to another report, the mujahidin shot down a military aircraft and a helicopter near the Seyyed Karam area of Paktia last week. The mujahidin attacked Kabul regime forces near Qalat-e Ghelzai on Wednesday and either killed or wounded several Kabul forces and captured two military posts.

Another report from Qandahar says that Kabul regime planes carried out indiscriminate bombing on (Nowroze Kocha), killing 10 civilians and injuring 15 others. The Kabul regime's fighter bombers also bombed (Gongabad) and Talukan regions.

MiG-27 Downed in Qandahar

BK1012024488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] A report from Afghanistan says the mujahidin shot down a MIG-27 near the Paktia border in Qandahar Province last Tuesday [6 December].

Pakistan Blamed for Downing of Civilian Airliner

LD1112160988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that last night around 2030 an (?AN-32) passenger aircraft flying from Khowst to Kabul was fired on by Pakistani Air Force planes and was shot down.

As a result of the downing of this aircraft by the Pakistani Air Force, which is flagrant Pakistani aggression against Afghanistan and is an obvious violation of the Geneva Accords, 25 of our compatriots were martyred. Three children and a woman are also among the victims of this sad incident.

Pakistani Violations Protested to UNGOMAP

Note No 143

LD1012091788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 9, BAKHTAR—The 143rd notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on fifteen cases of flagrant violation from the provisions of the Geneva Accords by the Pakistani Government was submitted on Thursday to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) by the Liaison Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan with UNGOMAP.

The notice gave precise information on date and place of the violations and sending of different kinds of modern weapons to the armed opposition extremists and dispatching them for subversive activities into Afghanistan as well.

The notice asks UNGOMAP to assess the violations on the basis of the seventh item, fourth document of the Geneva agreements and inform the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general of its results.

Note No 144

LD1012212988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The Coordinating office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that this evening the 144th memorandum of the Afghan Foreign Affairs Ministry on Pakistan's flagrant violations of the Geneva Accords was given to UNGOMAP in Kabul.

The memorandum gives details of 10 flagrant violations by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1, of the Geneva accords. The delegation has been requested to accurately assess the violations in the note and report the results of its investigation to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the envoy of the UN Secretary General.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Resigns for 'Personal Reasons'

BK1012125788 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has resigned on personal grounds. An official handout said in Dhaka the president accepted his resignation this afternoon.

Diplomatic Freight Scandal Cited

BK1012083888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 10 (AFP)—Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has resigned, the Information Ministry said here Saturday [10 December].

Mr. Chowdhury, 61, submitted his resignation on "personal grounds" and it was accepted by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, a ministry spokesman said.

He gave no other details, but informed sources said the development followed an inquiry into the shipment from Britain last month of a crate containing some of the minister's personal effects but wrongly labeled as diplomatic cargo.

News of the shipment incensed a part of the local press and soon swelled into a scandal, forcing the government to set up a committee of inquiry.

The two-member committee headed by Health Minister Abdul Munim returned to Dhaka this week from an investigative trip to London and has submitted its report, the sources said. They did not disclose the contents of the report.

Foreign Office sources here said Mr. Chowdhury called on Cabinet Secretary Mujibul Haq early Saturday to deliver his resignation letter. He then hurriedly called officials of his ministry to inform them of his decision.

Mr. Chowdhury was not immediately available for comment. An official at his residence declined to put a call through to him, saying "he is sleeping."

The minister, a retired career diplomat, said late last month on his return from a trip to the U.N. and Washington that there had been "some information gap" on the crate among officials here and in the London High Commission.

He said the crate contained carpets, chandeliers, shirts and some other items purchased during his recent visit to Poland.

He said he had left money with high commission officials for the shipment to Dhaka but was unaware how the crate had been marked as diplomatic cargo.

President Ershad Reshuffles Council of Ministers

BK1112052688 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] President Ershad has reshuffled the Council of Ministers. Portfolios of the ministers in the reshuffled cabinet are:

Industries:	Prime Minister Moudud Ahmad
Home Affairs:	Deputy Prime Minister Prof M.A. Matin
Information and Political Adviser to the President:	Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed
Labor and Manpower:	Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain
Health and Family Planning:	Retired Major General M.A. Munim
Agriculture:	Retired Maj Gen Mahmudul Hassan
Port and Shipping:	Mr M. Korban Ali
Foreign Affairs:	Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud
Relief and Rehabilitation:	Mr Sirajul Hussain Khan
Communications:	Mr Anwar Hussain
Jute:	Mr H.A.M. Moidul Islam
Planning:	Retired Air Vice Marshal A.K. Khandokar
Irrigation and Water Resources:	Mr Mahbubur Rahman
Land:	Mr Sunil Gupta
Textiles:	Mr Zafar Imam
Education:	Sheikh Shahidul Islam
Commerce:	Mr M.A. Sattar
Fisheries and Livestock:	Sardar Amjad Hussain
Energy and Mineral Resources:	Mr A.D.M. Ghulam Mustafa

Works:	Mr Mustafa Jamal Haider
Social Welfare and Women's Affairs:	Mr Rizwanul Haq Chowdhury
Finance:	Dr Wahidul Haq
Youth:	Retired Major Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury

The state ministers are:

Health and Family Planning:	Mr Ruhul Amin Hawaldar
Civil Aviation and Tourism:	Mr Ziauddin Ahmed
Youth and Sports:	Retired Lieutenant Colonel H.M.A. Zafar
Agriculture:	Mr Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury
Post and Telecommunications:	Kazi Feroze Rashid
Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives:	Mr Mohammad Fazlur Rahman Mian
Religious Affairs:	Mr Nazimuddin Khan Azad
Culture:	Mr Nur Muhammad Khan
Social Welfare and Women's Affairs:	Mr T.M. Riasuddin
Land:	Mr Tajul Islam Chowdhury

In the reshuffled cabinet, State Minister Retired Major Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury has been made full minister, while T.M. Riassuddin and Tajul Islam Chowdhury have been appointed as new state ministers.

State Ministers Mufti Maulana Mohammad and Abdul Qaid Chowdhury have been dropped.

Shanti Bahini Attack Kills 8, Injures 1

BK1212051088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0454 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 12 (AFP)—Suspected tribal Shanti Bahini insurgents shot dead eight people and injured another in Bangladesh's troubled southeastern Chittagong Hill Tracts last week, newspapers Monday reported.

The mass-circulation daily ITTEFAQ said the incident took place last Thursday when the suspected insurgents swooped on a group of Bengali fishermen in the Kaptai Lake area at Chakpotighat near the district town of Rangamati, about 216 kilometers (135 miles) from here.

The report said the injured fisherman, Arun Sardar, had been admitted to the district hospital with bullet wounds. No further details were available.

Earlier this year, at least 300 Bengali fishermen were reportedly abducted by the tribal guerrillas in the Kaptai Lake area.

The Shanti Bahini insurgents have been active since the early 1970's in the sparsely-populated, rugged and jungle-clad hill tracts districts abutting India and Burma.

The insurgents, led by the influential Chakma tribesmen, want autonomy for the nearly 13,000 square kilometers (5,200 square mile) hill tracts as well as expulsion of all Bengali-speaking settlers from the area.

India

Defense Minister on Role in Sri Lanka, Maldives

BK1112080188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that the recent elections in Sri Lanka have proved that a majority of Tamils in the country are opposed to violence. Addressing the jawans [soldiers] of the Indian Air Force at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Mr Pant said the new chief minister of the Northeastern Council should strive to fulfill the aspirations of the Tamils.

Referring to the role of Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka and the Indian action to foil the coup attempt in Maldives, the defense minister said if India had not acted at the request of the two nations, the situation in these two countries would have been exploited by other powers.

Ban on Chinese Journal PEKING REVIEW Lifted

BK1012085588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Government has withdrawn restrictions on import of PEKING REVIEW [name as heard] published from China. The ban on the journal was imposed in December 1962. A notification to this effect has been issued by the Ministry of Finance.

Economic Agreement With PDRY Signed

BK0912130288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] India and South Yemen have agreed to set up a joint economic committee. The two countries will also have a cultural exchange program. The agreed minutes were signed during the 6-day visit of the foreign minister of South Yemen, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, to India which began on Tuesday [6 December]. The two countries have also agreed on greater interaction between their foreign offices.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi this evening, Dr al-Dali expressed keenness of South Yemen to expand economic cooperation with India, especially in the field of oil exploration and minerals.

Kashmir Chief Warns 'Pakistan-Trained Terrorists'

BK1012161488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said the government will crush with heavy hand the activities of the Pakistan-trained terrorists indulging in explosions and killing of innocent persons in the state. He was replying to a call attention motion raised by four members of the Muslim United Front and an independent member in the assembly today. Dr Abdullah said 75 persons have so far been arrested in connection with terrorist activities. Among them are 42 youths who have had training in the use of sophisticated weapons and explosive devices in Pakistan.

'Terrorists' Kill Sikh Priest in Ambush 9 Dec

BK1012032288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] In Punjab, Jathedar [Sikh religious leader] Balbir Singh, chief of Takht Shri Keshgarh Anandpur Saheb and one of the five Sikh high priests, was shot dead by terrorists last night. The jathedar was on his way to Anandpur Sahab in Rupar District when his car was ambushed near Chitamla village. He died on the spot. His driver and bodyguard were seriously injured in the attack. A police party which happened to be in the area tried to nab the terrorists, but they managed to escape.

In another incident, terrorists gunned down a farmer and seriously injured his father in Yamarai village in Amritsar District last night. The Amritsar police has arrested four more terrorists at Tarn Taran after an encounter.

4 People Killed in Punjab; 7 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK0912161488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The Punjab police made a rich haul of sophisticated arms and ammunition from village Dabban in Batala District. The state police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen in Jullundur that the seizure was made on the basis of clues given by the hard-core terrorist, Baldev Singh Dorangla, who was arrested 10 days ago. The seizure included 5 Chinese pistols and 90 electric detonators.

Meanwhile, terrorists shot dead four persons while security forces arrested seven terrorists, including a hard-core one. The killed include a police constable in Ropar District, two farmers in Amritsar and Faridkot Districts and the caretaker of a religious place in Faridkot District. The hard-core terrorist, Lakhwinder Singh alias Lakka, was arrested after an encounter with security forces near Murana village in Amritsar District.

'Terrorists' Kill 5, Wound 4 in Gurdaspur Area

BK1112085588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down five persons and seriously injured four in separate incidents in Gurdaspur District last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at a bus stand in village (Sakoha) and killed four and injured two. In another incident in village Jafarwal, terrorists shot dead a farmer in his house. In Srihargobindpur area, terrorists ambushed a patrol party in which two security personnel were injured.

Meanwhile, security forces have arrested three more terrorists from Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, and Ludhiana Districts during raids on terrorist hideouts. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession.

Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists' in Punjab

BK1212091288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] In Punjab, four hard-core terrorists have been killed in separate encounters with security forces. According to an official spokesman, ex-havildar [noncommissioned officer] Ajit Singh was killed near village (Niani) in Hoshiarpur District early this morning. He was involved in a number of terrorist crimes.

Two terrorists were killed in an encounter near a farmhouse in Talwandi Suba village in Amritsar District. Some arms and ammunition were recovered. One terrorist committed suicide by consuming poison after being overpowered by the police in Ludhiana District. He was identified as Balwant Singh of Moga. He also had been involved in a number of terrorist killings. A farmer was killed by terrorists in Bhullar village of Amritsar District. Seven terrorists were arrested during raids on their hideouts.

Iran

Majles Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0912231288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 9 December at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse, passage omitted] Before starting our discussion, I want to say that one of the issues of

the day relating to the country's current activities concerns the second list of goods that may be freely imported by the private sector. The announcement was made by the Ministry of Commerce, and we are grateful to our brothers in that ministry who have drawn up good plans and who, in a coordinated manner and with full supervision and uniform care, have opened that door to the people. God willing, necessary goods will gradually come into the country. Also, those people who have some resources and who want to serve the people will find that the road of service is open to them.

We expect the Ministry of Commerce to be extremely attentive in this task to ensure that people do not take advantage; that sound people embark on the task; and that issues of personal interest do not crop up in such a way that the officials will regret having opened that door. So far things have gone well; the response from the people has been good, and many permits have been issued. God willing, further measures will be announced in the future concerning important industrial needs, the needs of factories for production. Achieving prosperity by means of production is the healthiest path.

Now to the important issue of the day, a topical issue, both in our country and throughout the world: human rights. I believe that because of the importance of the issue, from a humanitarian and political point of view, it is appropriate that one of my Friday prayer sermons should be devoted to it.

Something exists in the world today by the name of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has about 30 articles. The declaration was approved in 1948 at the third UN General Assembly session in Paris after lengthy discussion. It was after World War II and under the influence of the difficult problems of the war, and the even worse events which occured after it—which placed nations under pressure—the Declaration of Human Rights was approved. Apart from the two or three weak points, it is very good. In other words, it must be considered as one of the good achievements of the world's sociopolitical philopsophy.

If the document's articles are implemented in a serious and healthy manner in the world, without discrimination and without the use of malicious influence, it could guarantee the rights of a large part of the world's deprived and oppressed people. We must be satisfied with the action that was taken at that time, and we must support it. The principle underlying the action is good.

Unfortunately, like any other good international action, and like any good international organization in which the basis is correct, the majority, maybe all—there are a few exceptions-of the established international organizations are good as far as appearances go. They were established to solve the problems of mankind. If that were not the case, they would not have been approved, because nations voted for them, and they were created in accordance with the wishes of the people and of the people's representatives.

I return to the subject about which I was speaking: Apparently, there were 58 members attending that meeting, and 48 members voted. [sentence as heard] That is, the absolute majority voted in favor of those articles; a few people were against, a few people abstained, and a few people were absent on that day. It was something that was wanted by the world, but, unfortunately, it has been poorly implemented.

There is no shortage of good laws in the world that are poorly implemented. Even inside countries, even inside our own country, and even after the revolution, we had very good and superior laws which could guarantee happiness. However, sometimes officials do not act correctly, and things are poorly done. In such instances, it is a mistake. However, in connection with the Declaration of Human Rights, it is deliberate, it is a conspiracy. I want to discuss this.

The great misfortune facing the world is precisely this issue; I want to tell you about it in this sermon. That good law has fallen into the hands of evil officials. The people who are in charge of it... [changes thought] Of course, it is not a question of the people in the offices, and so forth; those people who have influence, who interpret the law, and who, for the sake of appearances, are sympathetic toward that law, who back the implementation or lack of implementation of that law wherever they please—those people are bad. In other words, the powers which are behind the declaration are such that, instead of putting the declaration at the service of mankind, they turn it into a mask for the dirty and cruel face of global arrogance.

The forces of arrogance, the manner of behavior—about which I spoke in a previous sermon—do not behave now like the [word indistinct] they do not behave like the pharaoh. They are experienced, they have seen much, they are political. They are aware of psychology. They know the psychology of nations. They act scientifically. Therefore, they have found ways to achieve their aims. By using deceit, lies, conspiracies, and concentrated propaganda, they attain their goals, and whenever they fail to attain them, they draw their sword from its sheath. That is the way they are. They loudly proclaim human rights. They stand behind human rights, and hold ceremonies in that connection every year. Every year, they use their newspapers, radios, televisions, and whatever they have. However, each year they set as their target just that which is exactly the reverse of what the Declaration of Human Rights states. They support that which should not be supported.

Of course, they are also clever, mischievous. They intermingle justice and injustice. In some places, where they think there is no danger, they implement the Declaration

of Human Rights, and they present issues in such a way to the world that they appear to be telling the truth. They take on a self-righteous appearance. In other places, where they think it is no longer expedient, they tear up the (?curtain), no matter what. This is what I want to tell you about today, and I think that this knowledge is necessary for the whole world. Unfortunately, when we speak of such matters, imperialism does not publish those things which are to its disadvantage. However, we can speak to our own people, and these Friday sermons have an audience throughout the world of Islam. A large number of people throughout the world wait to see what is said at the Friday prayers at Tehran University. At least, they listen to us.

We do not expect that imperialism, which relies on such vast propaganda resources, will abandon the field upon hearing one of our sermons. Why should we assume so much? Nevertheless, certain points must be raised.

With regard to those points in the Declaration of Human Rights, whenever it is to the advantage of arrogance, it acts seriously; it pursues this path; on the other hand, whenever it is to its disadvantage, it ignores it, and deceitfully and slyly pretends that people should even feel indebted to it. It is amazing that in this regard those who have not paid what they owe always act as if they are owed something. This is one of those cases where everything is upside down.

One day, when one of the Soviet officials came to see me, I said to him: I am surprised how, whenever you have contacts with Americans, they always make it appear that you owe them something, and you are rather weak in exposing their assertions. Whenever one of the Western leaders wants to visit the Soviet Union, or the Eastern bloc countries, they say: We are going to speak about human rights. Of course, human rights are violated there. I am not saying that human rights are not violated in Marxist countries; there is no freedom, no democracy, nothing of that kind. However, the Western leaders should not say those things. We should be saying it. They do not have the right to say it. When the President of the United States, or of Britain or France, go to the Soviet Union and says: We have come to defend human rights; and when they make a big deal about several prisoners or exiled people, the Soviets should speak out, as they would have a great deal to say against the Westerners.

Right now, the West, as far as appearances are concerned, is a defender of human rights, and I want to assert, on the basis of a strong argument, that the West, more than any other bloc, and Western leaders, more than any other heads of state, are responsible for the violation of human rights during the last few centuries. I will tell you a bit about this. [crowd chants support]

It is possible to prove clearly that most of the crimes committed in the world against the Declaration of Human Rights are carried out by the Westeran arrogant powers—even worse than those committed by the Eastern bloc. That is, if the West had not committed so many injustices, had not usurped workers' rights, and had not imposed so much economic pressure, then many countries of the world would not have fallen into the lap of Marxism. [passage omitted] For many centuries, colonialism committed the worst crimes against people—in Africa, in Asia, and in Latin America. Now the children of those criminals are taking refuge behind human rights. [passage omitted]

The West is responsible for poverty in the Third World. Some may ask why it is the fault of the West. They may say that the Third World lacks techniques and resources, but that is not so. The West has done things to halt development in the the Third World.

People with a dark colonial record are now championing the cause of human rights. How? You keep a nation, which was for 100 years in bondage, under your thumb. Then you obtain membership quotas for them in the United Nations, and invite their representatives to the United Nations. Then, if someone does something in his own country, you place pressure on him in the United Nations under the pretext of human rights. [passage omitted] Within these countries, the Declaration on Human Rights comprises many factors, one of which is democracy: the people's right to choose their government. This is one of its important articles.

Are these places (?enjoying democracy), these countries which, by their authority, are being ruled by a dictator, a dictator that is a lackey of either the United States, or England, or France, or Germany, or similar countries? The people can not breathe lest the dictator beats them—again, they speak about human rights. There are countries that have no parliament, yet seem extremely progressive and sincere in the eyes of these human rights leaders. One example is Saudi Arabia—I do not mention other issues—but it has no parliament. Nevertheless, in the view of the United States, any form of investment there is permissible.

On the other hand, when some countries decide to remain impassive to U.S. desiresi, the United States stops its aid, withholds weapons, and cuts off relations with that country. This is not because it is in favor of human rights or supports democracy, but because it accepts the government in that place. [sentence as heard] If, however, the same government takes any steps against the United States, it will be accused of acting against human rights, and the United States then severely punishes that government.

I will use the United States in another example. It concerns the blacks in the United States who form 11 percent of that country's population. Except for a minority of blacks, who hold influential positions, the majority of them live in the most wretched conditions. I visited one such black residential area, and felt like screaming. How could they live in such a wretched state? I was

surprised that those reporters who leave the United States for Ethiopia or other places to shoot scenes of misery to show the world, ignore these areas. Such poverty, such misery, such corruption. Their lives resembled that of a flock of animals while next to them there are 50-, 80-, or 100-story high office blocks. The United States speaks of the minorities' right to vote.

The West, wherever it is opposed to a country, condemns that country for not giving the franchise to its minorities, for depriving them of their rights. We should observe these so-called democratic countries; observe how they treat their minorities, and make comparisons. Take France, for example, which is supposed to be the cradle of liberty, because it was the pioneer among them—the Declaration on Human Rights was ratified in France. Consider the number of Muslims in France; what rights do these Muslims share in French issues? How many seats do they occupy in the French Parliament? This is one of the main points of democracy, which is only held in theory.

If the Declaration on Human Rights is violated in France, how can anyone claim to support human rights? We have about 4 million Muslims in France, but how many of them actually hold seats in the French Parliament? How many of them are members of the government? How many of them play a role in shaping their own destiny? Then consider Iran: Ask the minorities in Iran, whether Armenians, Jews, Zoroastrians, others, ask them how they are treated. We have five representatives of the religious minorities in our Majles, many of whom gained their seats with only about 4,000 votes. This is because we want a voice to represent our minorities.

Ask these delegates if we discriminate against them. They have the right to deliver their speeches before any one else. Even when they speak into a microphone and are heard by the world, no one tells them what they should or should not say. They are free, like the others, to say what they want. Even if they utter words which we do not approve, we refrain from saying anything, as it is their right as their people's representative. Do they do the same in France? Do they treat the Muslims in the same way?

In England, BBC radio and its like incessantly talk about democracy and human rights. You should observe the number of Zionists and their representatives in the British Parliament, and then look at the number of Muslims and their representatives. The Zionists constitute a very small number, but they control industry, the press, radio, and have much influence within the government—they hold 40 votes in the British Parliament; on the other hand, the Muslims have no representatives there. In London alone there are more than 1 million Muslims or so. What rights are given these people? What kind of democracy is this? Yet these dastardly people spread propaganda throughout the world regarding the minorities in Iran or other places. At present they do not approve of Iran. You read about it in many articles in the Western press, written recently under the title: "Violation of minorities' rights in Iran." [passage omitted]

If a people's revolution takes place in a country, a number of individuals who were in charge—cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, generals, the wealthy—flee the country. When there is a revolution the previous attitudes are no longer there. These individuals must be held accountable. They have committed crimes, so they must be put on trial. This is what happens. When the first signs of the revolution appear, they leave the country taking the country's riches to the West. Then these very criminals, who until yesterday were responsible for the crimes committed by the old regime—a regime against whom the people rose to liberate themselves—escape when there is a revolution. Meanwhile, they have earlier transferred money belonging to the people. Later we see that these criminals are transformed into a political minority, while a nation which has made a revolution is transformed into a cruel nation opposed to human rights. This nation becomes the tyrant and the escapees become the victims. [passage omitted]

How can yesterday's monarchists—criminals who riddled people with bullets when they said God is great, who sent abroad so much money belonging to the people for many years that it cannot be compensated for, whose U.S. bank accounts are full of money after 10 years—become freedom-lovers? How can the oppressed minority—while the nation underwent such a revoluton which eradicated terrorism, fought so courageously, and lives under poverty it inherited from that evil regime—become an oppressive nation?

The gentlemen who supported the escapees become supporters of human rights. I spit on you because you are so shameless; so shameless that you play with honorable terms of humanity in such a way. One must be very audacious to think that a nation may forget such things.

The sums of money which escapees stole from the people and accumulated in U.S. banks are so great they have been spending them freely for 10 years after the revolution, and yet their pockets and accounts are full. Ths wealth belongs to the people, but it is in U.S. banks. U.S. banks are tempting fate. And then that American living in the White House wants to condemn our nation in the United Nations, using the votes of the peoples' representatives in the United Nations! This same person wants to acquit that escaped criminal. What kind of human rights is that? Do you imagine that the nations do not understand? How can you deceive people in such a manner? How can you mislead the people in such a way? Who are these individuals who have no trace of equity and humanity? They have counted on a number of forgetful, ignorant, and foolish individuals, and they want to treat all the people likewise. [passage omitted]

Now I shall discuss terrorism. It is one of those issues about which the West makes a great deal of noise, linking it to human rights because it creates insecurity among the people. Indeed, terrorism is both against human rights and against humanity. Any campaign against terrorism is a good deed. It is a very good term; it is a humane deed. Those who want to create insecurity, those who want to achieve their objectives through terrorism, whether state-sponsored or initiated by individuals or political parties, must all be condemned. [passage omitted]

If one is to fight terrorism, one must first fight Iran's opponents, who are on the payroll of the United States and the CIA. They have clubs and newspapers. They give interviews to Voice of America and Cologne Radio. The newspapers publish whatever they say. How is it that when terrorists assassinate an Iranian, no one minds, but if a firecracker, not a bomb, is placed in front of the White House, they would not be forgiven under any circumstance? You miserable fools, you cannot treat others like this. When a nation which has staged a revolution hears from your radio that you are fighting terrorism, and in the same program you interview these people, our opponents, it becomes evident that you are not concerned with what is right; you pursue other goals.

Hostage-taking is wrong; we concede this. For many years U.S. and British lackeys have held four of our people hostage. They were diplomats. Diplomats have immunity everywhere. The government in Lebanon is responsible for the safety of diplomats. [passage omitted] If other hostages are taken you do not care, but as soon as your spies are taken hostage by the oppressed people of Lebanon in self-defense, you raise a hue and cry and shout to the world; you condemn three revolutions for supporting hostage-taking. Why are you so contradictory? What sort of custodians of human rights are you? How can you make such a claim? [passage omitted]

By what right do you condemn others for violating human rights? I said the same thing to the Soviet leaders. I told them: When you go to the United States you relate all this. Tell them they are lying. We say to both of them: You violate human rights. But you, the Soviet Union, should criticize the Americans. For the first time, the Soviet leader criticized the West in his recent speech. But the Westerners said: Attack is the best form of defense. They are lying. They are dangerous beings. Their danger lies mostly in the fact that they have put on the mask of angels, but they are demons underneath. They commit the worst deeds, but say they are defending human rights, fighting terrorism, fighting hostage-taking, and supporting democracy. [passage omitted]

Our voice is heard only by you, but their voice is louder, and they can say a great deal. However, one day these nations will rise and stop them. That time is now. [passage omitted] God will act when it is time, and the nations will rise. One day, these Westerners who have committed so many atrocities in the past few centuries in the name of freedom and democracy will pay for their crimes, and human rights will truly be human rights. [chanting from crowd] [passage omitted]

Chief Justice Comments on Amnesty, Human Rights

LD1012153088 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili today indicated that a number of prisoners arrested in connection with terrorist activities will be pardoned on the 10th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

"A number of prisoners will be freed after it becomes certain that they will not break the law afterwards," he said. He did not give further details but said the matter was being studied.

In the past large numbers of convicted terrorists and their sympathizers who have been reformed in prison have been released on various important occasions namely on the revolution's anniversary, along with ordinary convicts.

The chief justice made the announcement in a press conference during which he categorically denied reports accusing Iran of human rights violations.

He said terrorists had been convicted for their offenses and were given opportunity to be reformed and qualify for amnesty.

"But (some) were not reformed. On the contrary they began to perpetrate provocative acts in prisons, especially after Mersad operations, thus showing their emnity towards the Islamic state."

"We are ready to put necessary documents, statistics and evidence at the disposal of all international circles provided that they prove to be honest in reflecting the realities and to have no political ill-intentions."

Shortly after Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 on July 18 Baghdad-based Mojahedin-e Khalq Iran (MKO) known here as the Monafeqin (hypocrites) attacked several towns in western Iran in an attempt to topple the Islamic Republic.

Iran's Muslim combatants in an operation code-named Mersad crushed the invasion, killing and wounding thousands of MKO members and arresting many others.

President 'Ali Khamene'i last week said those who were executed were receiving legal punishment for their crimes. Also on Friday Majles Speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani strongly attacked Western governments for using human rights as a political tool.

"In Iran, every body is free to be engaged in political activities provided that he does not violate the law," Chief Justice Ardabili said.

"At present political groups are free and active in Iran. They are never prosecuted as long as they do not commit any illegal act."

Majles Deputies Ask Montazeri for Guidance

NC0912190788 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Dec 88 p 5

[Letter addressed by "more than 130" Majles deputies to Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, read out on 5 December at the open Majles session in Tehran]

[Text] For the auspicious attention of His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, the leader-designate:

With boundless gratitude and praise to the Almighty, who has bestowed upon us the great bounty of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult], so that it may show us the straight path in all the vicissitudes, and so that we may be able to distinguish vice from virtue, we, the representatives of the people of Iran, have taken an oath that we always shall act in conformity with the Constitution and the guidance of our great leader. While declaring our categorical support and pledging complete allegiance to the imam of the nation and to Your Eminence and to your enlightened guidance, we urge all officials to implement your frank and compassionate advice with determination and precision. It is obvious that the new conditions in the country demand that Your Eminence should impart to us—all the officials and all sections of the nation—your magnanimous guidance and utterances, now, more than ever before.

[Signed] Karim Shafe'i, Majid Dabestani, Towhidi, Hejrati, Hashem Hejazi, Babakhas, Anzabi, 'Abdossaheh Taheri-Musavi, Dr Rasul Seddiqi, Ahmad Nikfar, Moqtada'i, Hasan-Begi, Rahmani, Mostafa Morsali, Nabiollah Raji, Farzpur, Seyyed Hasan Shoja'i, 'Arab Ameri, Imam Musavi, Sobhani-Nia, Hadi Ghaffari, Majd Ara', Hasan Ja'fari, Mollah Zahi, Ayatollah 'Ala, Afrazideh, Hashem Zahi, Eftekhari, Seyyed 'Abdollah Hoseyni, Sadri-Moqaddam Esma'il Ferdowsi-Pur, Mohammad Reza Tavassoli, Seyyed 'Abolqasem Hoseyni, Taheri, Kia'i-Nezhad, Hojjaji, Hoseyni Sirjani, Khananshu, Purmohammadi Fallah, Dadgar, Ne'matollah Asadi, 'Alikaram Mohammadiyan, 'Azimi, Asadollah Tabe', Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Khodanazar Qasemi, Qazipur, Vahid Ahmadi, Hoseyn 'Ali Zia'i, Partovi, Ahmad Ballukian, Ahmad Hemmati, Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, Hoseyni, Hemmati, Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyni, Ahmadnezhad, Zarringol, Mohammad Reza, Rahimi, Amirmir, Hoseyn Najafi, 'Ali Panahendeh, Habib Borumand, Musavi Izeh, Bani Hashemi, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Partivm Rhanizadeh, Seyyedzadeh, Amin Bayanak, Mo'tamadi, Arbabifard, Rahimnezhad, Khaksa, Parviz Seyqali, Kamaleddin Shahryari, Mohammad 'Ali Qoreyshi, Zakeri, Gholamreza Feda'i, Yunes Mohammadi, Hoseyni Kuhestani, Ahmad Nikfar, Fazel Hamadani, Kazemdinan, Seyyed 'Ali Mohammad Shahidi, Seyyed Akbar Parvaresh, Movahhedi Savoji, Seyyed Mehdi Tabataba'i, Reza'i, Musavi Nanehkaran, Mohammad Taqi Ranjbar, Zia'i, Musa Salimi, Hamta'i, Beditollah Ja'fari, 'Ali Kamyar, Tabataba'inezhad, Mohammad Haqqi, Ahmad Zamanian, Rahmatollah Khosrovi, Mehdizadeh, Motahher Kazmi, Nader Kavusi, Rostami, Mohsen Nariman, Rahmati, Arsalan Safa'i, Dr 'Abbas Sheybani, 'Abdollah Tatli, 'Abdol Karimi, Rahbari-Amlashi, Abu Taleb Habibi, Asadollah 'Abedi, 'Ali Enayat, Seyyed Khalil Movasheh, Davudi-Shamsi, Montajabnia, Kheyrkhah, Malek-Asa, Damadi, 'Ateqeh Seddiqi-Raja'i, Jahangiri, Akbarzadeh, Mohammad 'Ali Sadduqi, Rowhani-Nia, Baqeri Nezhadian-Fard, Jalali, Salehabadi, Karimi, Fakhreddin Reza Zahi, Fazayeli, and [illegible signatures as published].

RESALAT Notes Khamene'i, Tehran Clergy Talks

Part I on Postwar Era

NC0912204588 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Dec 88 p 1

[Part I of a report on discussion between President Khamene'i and Tehran Province clerics at a gathering at Shahid Motahheri School in Tehran on 1 December]

[Excerpts] President Khamene'i presided over a gathering of the clerics of Tehran Province at the Shahid Motahheri School this morning. [passage omitted]

While explaining the present situation as regards the Geneva peace talks, and the sensitivity of the issue, President Khamene'i said: Now that the war has ended, the Iraqi regime cannot find any reason to convince the Iraqi people why the war started or how it benefited them. This is because Iraq itself initiated the war.

He said: If we are asked why we fought the war or how we benefited from it, we should reply we did not start the war; it was imposed upon us. Every country has the right to defend itself. We had to defend our nation and our system. The most important gains of the 8 year old war were the safeguarding of the sovereignty of Islam, the protection of our people's honor and prestige, and the preservation of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Part II on Exports, Imports

NC0912210688 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Dec 88 p 2

[Part II of a report on discussion between President 'Ali Khamene'i and Tehran Province clerics at a gathering at Shahid Motahheri School in Tehran on 1 December]

[Excerpts] President Khamene'i addressed the gathering of the clerics of Tehran Province Thursday morning at Shahid Motahheri School. He spoke on the important and effective role of the clergymen on the fronts in strengthening the morale of the fighters. [passage omitted]

Asked a question on a defamatory article published in the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper regarding one of the prominent political figures of the administration, President Khamene'i said: Of course, I denounce this action. I have repeatedly advised the officials in charge of the newspaper on these matters. I am an honorary member of the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, and an honorary member can only advise on policies and guidelines, and I have repeatedly done so. The entire responsibility for what the paper publishes falls on the editor. He is the only person responsible.

Regarding the second question pertaining to the arrival of foreign advisers and the agreement for the export of natural gas to the Soviet Union, President Khamene'i stated: Our agreement with the Soviet Union is not in any way a matter of dependence; the country's pressing need for foreign exchange necessitated such an agreement. However, the presence of abundant gas resources in our country can enable us to increase the country's income level. We are second in the entire world in gas reserves. The arrival of foreign advisers in the country does not pose any problems. Of course, we should be very careful and approach the matter in a correct manner.

To the question of whether it would have been better to have accepted peace after Khorramshahr was liberated and whether we should have taken this step at that time, President Khamene'i said: That is a question which seems very simple to answer now, but was extremely difficult at the time. When we liberated Khorramshahr we were in a position of strength, and we did not know whether the acceptance of peace then would be advantageous to us or not. However, today we see that Saddam regrets that he started a war with us, and this was not so at that time. [passage omitted]

Regarding a question on the recent power outages, President Khamene'i recounted the numerous problems stemming from 8 years of war and said: The upper part of the Neka power station was rendered unoperational due to the Iraqi regime's aerial attack. However, this problem will soon be remedied with the help of the Energy Ministry.

In answer to a question on goods declared free for import, President Khamene'i said: These goods were announced by the Commerce Ministry after approval of the policy making council. More goods will be announced later.

Concerning the rise in the value of the dollar because some commodities had been placed on the free import list, President Khamene'i said: We foresaw such a situation. We knew that by declaring the free import of some goods the value of the dollar would rise. However, an illogical rise in its value can only be attributed to the work of some unscrupulous persons, and we have issued instructions for an investigation. [passage omitted]

Leaders Send Condolences to Soviet Leaders

Khamene'i Message to Gorbachev

LD1212110788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] President Khamene'i has sent the following message to Soviet President Gorbachev:

His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the USSR:

I was extremely sorry to hear the news of the earthquake in Soviet Armenia. While expressing my sympathy, I pray for patience for the Soviet Government and nation in this tragedy. Please convey my sincerest regrets and condolences to the Soviet nation and particularly to the families of the victims in this tragedy.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Musavi Message to Ryzhkov

LD1112164088 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Prime Minister Musavi has sent a message to Mr Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, conveying the sympathies of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the earthquake in the Soviet Armenian Republic.

Majles Speaker Condemns Israeli Attack on Lebanon

LD1112093588 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11 IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday condemned recent Zionist attacks on Lebanon and appealed to international organisations and governments to react to the Zionist atrocities.

Speaking in the open session of the Majles he urged the United Nations to defend the rights of the oppressed people of Lebanon.

More on the same subject he said that the U.S. Administration by lifting the ban on export of cluster bombs to the Zionist regime gave it a green light to continue its crimes.

The speaker also touched on the disastrous quake in the Soviet Armenian Republic last week and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to assist the victims. He expressed grief over the tragic incident which has claimed lives of thousands in the neighboring country and expressed condolences of the Majles deputies to the Soviets and the Soviet officials.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Raid on Lebanon
LD0912184288 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemned Friday's aggression of Zionist forces on south of Beirut and took the opportunity to call for a boycott of Palestinian leaders who had recognized the Zionist entity.

While renewing its support for the Palestinian uprising the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic "firmly condemns this savage Zionist move in launching an aggression on Lebanon."

In a statement it also called on all Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims to "mobilize all their forces and to set aside all their differences in order to defeat the Zionist enemy with their heroic resistance."

This "will block the compromising avenue for those simple optimists who think they can secure the Palestinian nation's rights by reconciling with the Zionists, and will make Palestinian uprisers... more hopeful on the continuation of the uprising and greater successes."

Israeli forces early Friday assaulted Palestinian guerrilla bases south of Beirut from land, sea and air on the anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

The Foreign Ministry said the Islamic Republic expects international organizations and freedom-loving nations to voice support for the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

"The Qods (Jerusalem) occupying regime very soon understand that Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims will tolerate no new aggression by this usurping regime," it said referring to the swift defeat of the latest Israeli invasion.

Cabinet Criticizes PLO Recognition of Israel
LD1012122588 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec 10, IRNA—The recognition of Israel especially at a time when Palestinian Islamic struggle is gaining momentum is a "crime against the whole Muslim world", the Cabinet declared on Saturday.

"The struggle against the Zionist regime will not come to a halt unless the entire land of Palestine is restored to its people," it stressed.

The Cabinet reiterated its position on Palestine following Friday's attack by Zionist commandos south of Beirut which coincided with the anniversary of the Palestinian uprising and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's official recognition of the Zionist entity. The minister also reviewed the result of the latest meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the July 3 U.S. downing of an Iran Air airliner.

Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani briefed the Cabinet on his recently-concluded visit to Moscow and talks with Soviet officials. Iravani said agreements had been reached on increasing the capacity of the Esfahan steel mill to 1.9 million tons a year, transfer of technology for construction of dams, power plants and other infra-structural industries.

The Cabinet also continued its debate on the national budget bill for next year (starts March 22, 1989) and approved three more sub-articles of the bill.

After this morning's session Prime Minister Musavi, who was put in charge of war disabled affairs by Imam Khomeyni, said a council consisting of a number of ministers, deputy ministers and the disabled combatants themselves would be formed. "This is in order to use all government facilities and authority so that they could be used for planning and quick implementation," he said.

After solving the basic problems facing the disabled, priority would be given to meet their educational and cultural needs.

IRGC Pledges Aid to Palestinians, Lebanese
LD1012111488 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement issued here Saturday pledged support for the struggle of Palestinians and Lebanese against the Zionist regime. The IRGC announced readiness to assist them with the necessary means to continue their anti-Zionist campaign.

The statement also referred to the brutal attacks of Zionist forces on the first anniversary of the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands and slaughter of Palestinian and Lebanese combatants. In order to encounter these brutalities, it added, there is need for adoption of a new policy by the Islamic community for an all-out campaign against the Zionist regime until its annihilation.

It added that shameful silence of some of the rulers of Islamic countries towards Zionist atrocities has made it bold to continue it attacks. [sentence as received]

It concluded that a unified campaign by the Islamic community against the Zionist regime is the only way to annihilate this regime from the region.

Polish Official Arrives, Met by Majles Speaker
LD0912181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Chairman of Poland's Sejm (Parliament) Roman Malinowski arrived here Friday afternoon at the head of a parliamentary delegation. He was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by his counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Upon arrival Malinowski told reporters that his visit aims at discussing further expansion of Tehran-Warsaw ties.

Ambassadors of Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union were also present at the airport.

Malinowski expressed hope that his economic and cultural talks with Iranian officials would be fruitful.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said there were no limits on cooperation with Poland, noting that ties between Tehran and Warsaw had been friendly after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"Naturally when there is no war and the country's trade and economic activities are expanding, the two countries can expand their cooperation," he said. Iran in particular would learn and make use of Poland's post World War II experiences in reconstruction, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added.

Briefed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1012181488 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Bilateral ties, international issues and other matters of mutual interest figured in during the Majles speaker's meeting with his Polish counterpart today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani briefing Roman Malinowski on Islamic Iran's first five-year development plan, said Poland could help contribute to post-war reconstruction projects.

On ties with the Eastern bloc, he noted Iran's expansion of ties with some East European states after the revolution, "but the Soviet Union's negative stance on the Iraqi-imposed war and the Afghan issue marred promotion of relations with all socialist states".

However, he expressed hope that once issues of the (Iraqi) war and Afghanistan are solved Iran could continue its policy of expanding ties with the Eastern bloc.

In response, the chairman of the Polish Sejm (parliament) noting the two countries "500-year old friendship", said Warsaw wants cooperation on the basis of mutual understanding.

Malinowski who arrived here yesterday offered industrial expertise to Iran, recalling Poland's experiences in reconstruction after the ravages of the Second World War.

Towards the end of the meeting the Polish parliamentary speaker invited his counterpart for an official visit to Warsaw, which was accepted by Hashemi-Rafsanjani who promised to make the visit at a suitable time.

Meets With Musavi

LD1012190388 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—"The Islamic Revolution opened a new chapter in the long record of Iran-Poland ties", chairman of the Sejm (Polish parliament) told Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today.

Offering his country's expertise in post-war reconstruction, Roman Malinowski called for mutual cooperation in power generators, sugar factories, trawler manufacturing, agriculture, as well as technical and scientific researches.

Elsewhere he also pledged Polish support for full implementation of UN Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iran-Iraq conflict, and condemned any procrastination in this regard.

Premier Musavi, attaching special importance to Malinowski's visit, welcomed bilateral cooperation and expressed hope Tehran-Warsaw ties would further expand in the light of changes taking place in Poland.

Malinowski heading a parliamentary delegation arrived here Friday at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Calls Foreign Forces 'Threat'

LD1112202188 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—In his meeting with Foreign Minster 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today, Poland's parliamentary speaker called for expansion of Tehran-Warsaw political, economic and cultural ties.

Roman Malinowski also pledged Poland's support for U.N. Security Council Resoluton 598 and the U.N. chief's efforts to end the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf particularly the U.S. naval fleet, are a "threat to the tranquility and regional peace," he added.

In response, Velayati, terming as "very positive" the upward trend of mutual ties over the past few years, thanked the Warsaw Government for its stance towards U.N. Resolution 598.

"The Islamic Republic has shown goodwill for implementing 598 but unfortunately the Iraqi regime is obstructing the enforcement of its articles," he added.

Malinowski, the chairman of Poland's Sejm (Parliament) arrived here on December 9.

Concludes Visit, Departs 12 Dec

LD1212091288 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Chairman of the Polish Parliament Roman Malinowski left Tehran at the end of a three-day visit Monday morning describing his talks with Iranian officials as constructive.

Malinowski was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Interviewed before departure Malinowski said his talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Premier Hoseyn Musavi, as well as the future visit to Warsaw of Premier Musavi will help further strengthen Tehran- Warsaw economic, technical, scientific and cultural relations.

The Polish official said that Iran and Poland enjoyed common views on many issues and that the bilateral relations were based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs.

He praised hospitality of the Iranian officials and said that he has invited Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Poland. He expressed the hope that talks held during the future visit of Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani will help speed up promotion of bilateral relations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani commenting on the visit said talks were friendly and sincere. He said that the two countries have enjoyed good relations. He added that following Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598 last July and the current developments in Iran's relations with the Eastern bloc countries the relations have become more important.

In these developments, he told reporters, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Hungary have a prominent place. Talks with Malinowski provided a good opportunity to become more acquainted with these developments. The visit could become a turning point in Iran's relations with Poland and other Eastern bloc countries, concluded Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Mirzadeh Outlines Reconstruction Priorities

LD1012135288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Mirzadeh, executive deputy to the prime minister, who is the head of the War Damaged Areas Reconstruction Headquarters, in an interview today explained the figures related to credits allocated to reconstruction of the war damaged areas. He also listed the priorities in the reconstruction effort. Our first news report concerns this point.

According to the Central News Unit report referring to the fact that 60 million dollars has been earmarked for providing building materials needed for the reconstruction of the areas devastated by war, Mr Mirzadeh said that according to the decree of the War Damaged Areas Reconstruction Headquarters—which was presented in the form of a bill to the Majles following its endorsement by the Cabinet and the Supreme Assembly for Reconstruction—more than 5,420 million rials plus $4.2 million have been earmarked for reconstruction and renovation of the utilities and buildings damaged by the war. The above sums are allocated for the remaining period of the current year [year ending 20 March 1989].

He added that according to a bill enacted by the Majles, special priority will be given to reconstruction and renovation of housing, provision for meeting losses inflicted on people due to war, reconstruction of power stations and refineries, and finally reconstruction of war damaged industrial plants in rural districts and regions. Under this program 30 billion rials has been earmarked for reconstruction of residential and commercial buildings as well as meeting the needs of the people. This sum covers all the towns and villages in the war damaged regions.

He said that reconstruction and renovation of all the towns of the war damaged regions where people still live would be completed by the end of the year 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990]. He also said that 15 billion rials has been allocated to the following reconstruction projects: Ahvaz steel industries, transmitters of the Voice and Vision, Pars paper mill, sugar mills and refineries of the southern and western regions of the country, Haft-Tappeh agro-industry, Karun agro-industry, airports in the war damaged provinces, cement mills in the war damaged areas, dairy plants, utilities, roads, railroads, and machinery belonging to the municipalities in the war damaged areas.

The executive deputy to the minister also said that $255.9 million have been allocated to the reconstruction of Razi Petrochemical complex, Abadan refinery, Mahshahr Liquid gas refinery, Marun gas injection project, Kangan gas refinery, communication networks of the war damaged areas, power stations, electricity transformers and pylons, and also to the provision of building materials and household equipment for the people who have endured damages. He said a $70 million dollars of credit has been allocated to the first phase of the reconstruction of Abadan refinery.

Continuing the interview, Mr Mirzadeh said that in the reconstruction program approved by the Majles, a sum of 5 billion rials has been allocated to the urban facilities such as water works, reconstruction of hospitals and schools of the war damaged areas, and $89 million has been allocated in the form of foreign exchange credits for the projects.

Referring to the reconstruction of rural areas and towns of the war damaged regions, the executive deputy to the prime minister said that the issue of employment for those left destitute by the war is one of the priorities. It is estimated that by the end of the year 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990] more than 760 villages will be rebuilt in the war damaged areas.

Mr Mirzadeh also said that 177 schools in Bakhtaran Province, 29 schools in Ilam, 31 schools in Khuzestan, 51 schools in West Azarbayjan, and 551 schools in Kordestan—which were damaged during the attacks of the Iraqi regime—will be built.

Ninety health clinics in the aforementioned villages, 25 health centres, and 37 hospitals in the above provinces will be included in the programs for reconstruction of the war damaged regions.

He said that reconstruction of palm groves in Abadan, Arvand-Kenar, Minu Island, as well as reconstruction of the Khorramshahr-Ahvaz railroad, and the reconstruction of water works of the rural areas have also been included in the program.

The executive deputy to the prime minister said that the participation and serious presence of the war refugees in the reconstruction of the war damaged areas has a special importance. He said that in rebuilding various sectors, particularly housing and agriculture and small industries, the war migrants will have a massive presence. In this program utilization of the capabilities of the specific headquarters in the provinces has been taken into account. Necessary measures have been provided to assign skilled and semi-skilled forces to the war damaged regions. Also measures have been taken to attract people's donations to these regions.

At the end of the interview Mr Mirzadeh said that in general, units related to the Ministries of Petroleum, Energy, Industries, Heavy Industries, Mines and Metals, Construction Jihad, Housing and Urban Development, Agricultural, and rural development, Roads and Transport, Post, Telegraph and Telephone, Higher Education and Culture, and Education and Training will have sustained activity in the reconstruction and renovation of the damaged areas. To ensure continuation of reconstruction and to speed up this vital task, reconstruction and renovation offices have been set up in each of the above ministries who will be active under the supervision of central headquarters.

Editorial on Khamene'i's View of Constitution

NC0912200888 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Dec 88 p 2

[Editorial: "The Constitution"]

[Text] Our esteemed president interpreted the Constitution in his Friday sermon in Tehran yesterday as follows: The Constitution is both the framework and axis of the revolution. In the first few years of the revolution's victory, the Constitution was approved by the imam of the nation in the month of Azar [22 November-21 December] in 1979 and the revolution assumed a specific identity as regards its ideals, objectives, and organizations.

Those who participated in the process of making the Constitution were experts from among the people. Most of them have been martyred since then and have thus signed their allegiance to the revolution's ideals and the Constitution with their blood.

The Constitution has specified the country's economic, social, cultural, and defense policies in 12 chapters and 175 clauses. The country's organizations such as the Majles, the government, and the judicial machinery all implement these policies. In other words, the Constitution has been compiled and written in such a manner that it does not require a separate executive body.

That is to say, the responsibilities and powers of the rule of the jurisconsult, the president, the cabinet, the Majles, and so forth are such that no issue is left in a vacuum or unattended. There is no doubt that there may be some ambiguities in the quality of the installations or in some responsibilities or powers, but this does not mean that the policies of the country or the revolution are not clear or specific.

For example, the president is responsible for presiding over the executive body. It is possible that he may have some opinions or suggestions in economic, political, or cultural affairs. Clause 127 of the Constitution gives him the right and opportunity to convene a Cabinet session and to present a bill which will later require the approval of the Cabinet for its implementation.

It is possible that the Constitution may have some shortcomings, but we should endeavor to make use of all its beneficial aspects and privileges. By implementing the Constitution we assist in strengthening and consolidating the system.

Commentary on New Drug Enforcement Law

NC1012150888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] Last week, after lenthy discussions, the Council for Discerning Interests sent the law on drug enforcement it approved in Aban [month ending 21 November] for implementation to headquarters that have been set up for this purpose at the prime minister's office.

The new law stipulates heavy punishments for drug producers, distributors, and addicts. Among the most important of these is the execution of smugglers who are found carrying or concealing at least 30 grams of heroin or 5 kg of opium. [passage omitted]

A general look at the new law on drug enforcement shows that stiffer punishments and the creation of greater limitations on the production, distribution, and use of drugs are among the law's special characteristics.

Meanwhile, more attention should be paid to the rehabilitation and cultural readjustment of addicts. By using the experiences gained from the Val 'Adiat plan, one can point to the shortage of rehabilitation centers for addicts and, possibly, to some approaches whose not-so-positive consequences stem from lack of attention to cultural issues and to rehabilitation.

If the new law is implemented in its present form and in a decisive and persistent way and if the relevant officials display the necessary coordination, many will hope for this new law's success. Also, until the new law is put into effect, the cultural and rehabilitation bases can be carefully studied.

However, to enforce the new law, it is important to find the roots of the elements leading to addiction and smuggling and to identify their political, economic, and social basis. These are among the fundamental issues that should be considered major elements and fought against.

Meanwhile, some experts propose that the control of borders and of desert passes is of primary importance. They then emphasize a change in the tribal economy in the eastern border areas because many people there have a long record of drug smuggling, a deep-rooted tradition.

In addition to these, there are dozens of other secondary elements concerning drug smuggling and addiction, and all of these elements have helped to create this sinister and destructive phenomenon. Therefore, increasing employment and increasing the information given youth on the consequences of drug addiction and prodding them toward scientific and cultural activities and sports can also reduce the tendency toward such destructive poisons and can also create suitable grounds for attracting people so they can overcome their addiction, regain their health, return to the bosom of society, and find the opportunity to play a better and more effective role.

Finally, the possibilities for the success of the new drug enforcement law in its implementation phase can be increased by decisiveness, eliminating negligence, continuity in the law's implementation, and more importantly, eliminating the deprivations of those who have fallen into the trap of drugs.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Visits General Staff Headquarters

BK1012112488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, visited the General Staff Headquarters [GSH] in Rawalpindi this morning. She was received by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, and senior military officials. The prime minister was conducted to a detailed briefing on the organizational structure and working of the GSH.

Ms Benazir Bhutto was accompanied by the special assistant to the prime minister, Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar; the minister of state for defense, Colonel, retired, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema; and the secretary of defense.

State Finance Minister Says No Cuts in Defense

BK1112003088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1709 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 10 (AFP)—Pakistan will not cut its defence budget because of border disputes with India and the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, Minister of State for Finance Ahsanul Haq Piracha said Saturday [10 December].

In a post-budget press conference, Mr. Piracha said that "because of the border situation, Pakistan is required to strengthen its defence by all means."

He said it was of "prime importance" to maintain the current level of defence expenditure, which represents about 40 per cent of total government spending.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan expected next year and the normalisation of relations with India could lead to a review of defence allocations at a later date, Mr. Piracha said.

India and Pakistan have fought three border wars since partition in 1947 and still dispute the borders around Kashmir, which is divided between the two countries.

Mr. Piracha said that the country's defence spending was still not enough to cover all its defence requirements.

Mr. Piracha said that 96 per cent of the budget was taken up with defence, repayment of foreign debts, government subsidies and administrative costs.

He said that with the exception of administrative costs, no other area allowed any flexibility in expenditure.

The government was trying to provide health, education and shelter for the population by balancing limited resources, he said, criticising the previous government for failing to check double-digit inflation.

"We have to import 2.2 million tons of wheat to increase food reserves to meet any unforeseen eventuality," he said.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's newly elected government retained most of the former government's fiscal measures in its budget presented Thursday.

Hundreds of Prisoners Released From Jails
BK0912154988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] More than 900 prisoners have been released from Punjab jails as a result of a 3-month special remission in sentences of prisoners recently granted by the prime minister. The death sentences of about 1,900 persons have been commuted to life imprisonment. In Sind, 1,636 persons convicted and under sentence for various crimes will benefit from the presidential order on remission of sentences. More than 700 prisoners of 8 different categories have already been released from jails.

Four Candidates To Contest for Presidency
BK1012082988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] One of the candidates for the office of the president, retired General Tikka Khan, has withdrawn his candidature leaving the four others in the fray. They are: Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Mr Ahmad Ibrahim Haroon Jafar, and Mr Mohammad Maruf Khan Malik. According to the Election Commission, the deadline for the withdrawal of candidature was midday today. Polling for the election of the president will be held on Monday [12 December].

Customs Officials Make Large Heroin Seizure
BK1112010288 Hong Kong AFP in English 2131 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Dec 10 (AFP)—Pakistani customs seized 143 kilogrammes (315 pounds) of fine-quality Afghan-made heroin late Friday [9 December] in one of the largest-ever heroin hauls, official sources said here Saturday.

Customs officials, acting on a tip-off, intercepted the consignment at Kahanza some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of here, they said.

The deadly drug, worth millions of dollars to smugglers, was concealed in false cavities in a truck coming from southern Afghanistan.

Authorities here said they believed the cargo was to be unloaded at Pakistan's Makran district coast for shipment abroad.

The haul was the second major seizure in southeastern Baluchistan Province in a week. Last week, customs officers recovered 123 kilogrammes (270 pounds) of heroin, also from Afghanistan. No arrest could be made, the sources said.

Meanwhile in Karachi anti-narcotics officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 720 kilogrammes (1,580 pounds) of hashish out of Pakistan.

The contraband was concealed in a terry-towel consignment brought in a truck to the Arabian Sea port for shipment abroad, officials said.

Three people, including the vehicle's driver, have been booked on drug trafficking charges, they said.

Iranian Envoy Discusses Relations With Premier
LD1112151688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in a meeting with the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] ambassador to Pakistan last night said;

Relations between Pakistan and Iran date back a long time and we attach great importance to the IRI. She stressed that the new Pakistani Government will be paying greater attention to expanding and consolidating bilateral relations. The Prime Minister also expressed her delight at the IRI's acceptance of UN Resolution 598.

Turkish Army Chief Arrives for 'Weeklong' Visit
BK1112084588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The commander of the Turkish Army, General (Kemal Yahmat), arrived in Rawalpindi yesterday on a weeklong visit to Pakistan. He met with the Army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, at general headquarters and exchanged views with him on professional matters. The Turkish general attended a dinner hosted in his honor by the Army chief in the evening.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Made Official Language; Ministers Sworn In
BK1012033688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Tamil has become the official language of Sri Lanka along with Sinhala, with English as a link language. The Sri Lankan parliament yesterday unanimously passed a Constitution amendment bill to this effect. Making Tamil as an official language of Sri Lanka was one of the major issues envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

The Jayewardene government has also decided to release 31 Tamil political prisoners. This was disclosed to newsmen in Colombo by Mr Varadaraja Perumal, who was sworn in as the first chief minister of the recently constituted northeastern province.

Four ministers of the northeast province are being sworn in at Trincomalee today. They are Mr Abu Yusuf, Mr C. Ganesalingam, Mr P. Kirupakaran, and Mr Dian Jayatillake. The governor of the Northeastern Province, Mr Nalin Seneviratne, will administer the oath of office and secrecy.

Of the four ministers, Mr Kirupakaran will look after finance, trade, and fisheries; Mr Abu Yusuf will be in charge of industries, transport, and roads; Mr Jayatillake will be the planning minister; while Mr Ganesalingam will look after, among other things, agriculture and rehabilitation.

Release of Convicted Tamil Prisoners Announced
BK0912132688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 9 (AFP)—Sri Lankan authorities are to free convicted Tamil political prisoners in line with an Indian-backed peace pact, a politician announced here Friday after a meeting with President Junius Jayewardene.

Annamalai Varadharajaperumal, who was sworn in as chief minister of the Northeastern Provincial Council before Mr. Jayewardene Friday, said the authorities had agreed to release the first batch of 31 "in a day or two."

The Tamil prisoners had been convicted under the tough Prevention of Terrorism Act clamped during the Tamil separatist campaign which erupted in mid-1983, Mr. Varadharajaperumal told reporters.

"There is a total of 168 Tamil political prisoners. The first batch of 31 will be released in a day or two. The others will be freed later," Mr. Varadharajaperumal said.

He said the detainees were being amnestied under the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end the bloody separatist campaign.

Since the signing of the accord, the government has released nearly 800 Tamil detainees against whom no charges had been framed.

In another development, the Sri Lankan Parliament Friday approved a constitutional amendment granting Tamil official language status on a par with the Sinhalese spoken by the country's majority community.

Tamil spoken by the two million Tamil minority had taken a second place since 1957 when Sinhalese was made the official language.

The chief minister described the latest moves as a positive step in winning minority demands. He said his regional cabinet would be sworn in before him Saturday in the northeastern port town of Trincomalee.

Mr. Varadharajaperumal's Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) won a majority of seats in the newly set up semi-autonomous Northeastern Provincial Council in the Tamil-populated region.

He said Indian troops were currently providing military training to 1,200 young Tamils in the two provinces as part of a civil volunteer force "to guard against extremist attack."

"Our target is to train a minimum of 5,000 men and a maximum of 7,000 in the next six months. These men will later be absorbed into the regional police force which will be under me," Mr. Varadharajaperumal said.

The EPRLF is an arch rival of the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil, which repudiated the peace plan and is currently battling nearly 50,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the two provinces.

'Subversives' Kill Provincial Councillor
BK0912131888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1229 GMT 9 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Unidentified gunmen, believed by police to be subversives, shot dead today Sunil Gunatileke, a provincial councillor, and three of his bodyguards at 0830 hours (local time) this morning at Ingiriya, 60 kilometres south of Colombo, police told LANKAPUVATH.

Bomb Explodes in Telegraph Office Complex 10 Dec
BK1012111088 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Police have said that a bomb believed to have been planted by Marxist rebels exploded in Central Telegraph Office complex in Colombo today. The explosion shattered windows but caused little damage to the building and no injuries were reported.

Muslims Urged To Remain 'Neutral' in Election
BK1012134088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 10 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Muslim political party on Saturday asked the island's minority Muslim community to remain "neutral" in the December 19 presidential poll.

The decision was taken by the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) late Friday and announced Saturday during a marathon five-hour party meeting attended by some 6,500 members at an indoor stadium here.

"We have asked our people (Muslims) to be neutral in the presidential election because the president is an executive head not answerable to voters but only to parliament," spokesman M.M. Abul Kalam said.

"So we have decided to concentrate on the general elections to increase Muslim representation (in parliament)," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The island-wide parliamentary elections, the first since 1977, are due in February.

The SLMC, formed in 1980 but recognised as a political party by the election commission only in February this year, is very active among Muslims, who form 7.1 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16.4 million population.

The SLMC won a surprising 29 seats in elections to provincial councils held throughout the island since April this year. [passage omitted]